DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 298 010 SO 018 007

AUTHOR Wyatt, Charles, Ed.
TITLE Sheriff Corbett Akins.
PUB DATE 79
NOTE 80p.; For related documents, see SO 018 000-006.
AVAILABLE FROM Loblolly, Inc., Box 189, Garry, TX (Subscription $6.00 a year; single copies, $3.00).
PUB TYPE Historical Materials (060) -- Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) (051)
JOURNAL CIT Loblolly Mazagine; v7 n2 Fall 1979

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Ethnography; Folk Culture; Handicrafts; *Law Enforcement; Musical Instruments; *Narration; *Rural Areas; *Rural Population; Secondary Education; Story Telling
IDENTIFIERS *Texas (East)

ABSTRACT

Panola County, Texas Sheriff Corbett Akins wrote a weekly column for the "Panola Watchman" in which he chronicled the adventures and mishaps of his force. He provides a wealth of information about East Texas life on everything from making fiddles, to running bloodhounds, to finding moonshine stills. The columns reprinted appeared from February, 1951 to November, 1951. (BZ)

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Corbett Akins

During the time that we have been publishing the Loblolly, we have come to know, love, and appreciate a certain person who has had a very strong influence on our lives and the lives of those who live or have lived here in Panola County. This person is Mr. Corbett Akins. He is a past Sheriff of Panola County and is well known and loved not only in this area, but all over Texas.

Mr. Akins has proven to be a wealth of information on everything from making fiddles, to running Bloodhounds, to finding moonshine stills.

During part of the time that he was Sheriff of Panola County, he wrote a weekly article about the adventures and mishaps of the Sheriff and his fellow officers, for the Panola Watchman. It is from these articles that we got the information for this issue of Loblolly.

We would especially like to thank Mrs. Doris House for letting us use the Watchman microfilms, from February, 1951 to November, 1951. It is through her that we are able to present to you, "The Sheriff's Column", by Corbett Akins.

Sheriff Corbett Akins and Deputy Acie Henigan with the Bloodhounds.

Thursday, February 8, 1951

One of the first tasks given to the two dogs was to trail down a party with a stolen pair of khaki pants. Rock and Fanny did not fail the old Negro wash woman. The khakies were hid in a briar patch. I could name a number of cases. One in Gregg County, where a Negro had raped a white woman, and the Negro had been electrocuted. One, an insane man had been lost three days. One, of a criminal that killed a boy, and shot it out with the officer. The criminal was shot through the foot. I was called and arrived at the scene at 11:00 p.m. Gave chase, treed a 19 year old boy nine miles from Kilgore at 4:00 a.m., the following morning. Much of the country was so covered with thickets that we officers had to crawl. Undergrowth was so heavy in places that there was barely room to go.

During the race, I could hear the dogs talking. Ol' Rock was saying "in the creek". Dixie was saying "bring him out". The two pups were saying "get him, get him!", and we got him. The boy waded the creek for a mile, and leaving the creek, I heard this treeing cry. I heard Ol' Rock say "hold him, hold him". But he got loose and I ran the dogs better than a mile. Very soon I could hear Ol' Dixie say "hallelujah, hallelujah!". With my fellow officers of Kilgore, we went to the bay of the hounds and there in bed we found a 19 year old boy that had been out of the pen two weeks. After dragging him out of the bed, we found the bullet wound in his foot. He confessed his crimes. Today he's serving time in the pen.

Another Chase: On another occasion, the bloodhounds speedily apprehended the Negro who shot and wounded two white boys. The trail was started about 9:00 a.m., near the Louisiana line. The Negro man was brought out of the woods by those man trailers at 5:50 p.m. We traveled some of the worst territory in East Texas and Louisiana, but that the dogs made was a 12 or 14 mile trace. Today the Negro is in the pen. I remember about 5:00 p.m. that afternoon, me and Mr. Burtis Wedgeworth was staying with the dogs, expecting the shot. Wedgeworth stated the dogs were just keeping ahead. He had begun to think Rock, Dixie, and

Frank were just fooling around, but when he saw the fresh tracks across the ditch, and heard Ol' Frank say "my God, my God!", we were then looking for a covey shot. After a while, we heard about a number of shots that were fired by the Negro. He was brought down by several bullets in answer to his gun. Brought to jail, and the hospital for treatment.

Another Call: I'll tell you of another call. It was in Jasper County. Sheriff Pace was being worried with robbery and was looking for two young men. We got the call late in the afternoon, but made the trip to Jasper. The next morning, at 8:00 a.m., we found the tracks and at 4:00 p.m., the fugitives were bayed by Ol' Doc, Dixie, and Tuck. Speaking of Doc, he is a registered English Bloodhound, weighs 95 pounds. Nip and Tuck are new dogs. I have now four dogs that cost me better than $900.00.

I believe in years past, there had been a tendency to overlook opportunities for dogs to be used with an advantageous solution of various crimes. Modern high speed communication, paved roads, etc. have curtailed their use. But despite these changed conditions, it is believed that cases solved with great difficulty or even remaining unsolved, could have been cleared readily if bloodhounds had been promptly and properly used. This applies to the country territory. Bloodhounds, with their highly developed sense of smell are invaluable in following a trail. Various wood tracks cannot be followed by night. Even when foot prints can be seen, the officers may be confused by the tracks of other individuals. The bloodhounds follow the distinctive scent of the one person as readily as if it were marked with a colored thread. In weeds or brush, he may get the scent from the vegetation when ground conditions are unfavorable for tracking. In other words, the bloodhounds can be used successfully whenever an individual travels on foot, and as long as he continues on foot.

Auto Use: Even when an automobile is used to leave the scene of the crime, bloodhounds can be used up to the point where the car was entered. If the car is located soon thereafter, the trail can be followed from the car to any

other point as long as the party followed is traveling on foot. Often the trail leads to a suspect who finds it difficult to deny the bloodhounds identification. To be continued next week.

Thursday February 15, 1951

The Bloodhounds Lead Sheriff: Recently, I took my dogs to a skirt of woods where two thugs were camped and parked a stolen automobile. After following the trail in a cross country manner, for three or four miles, I took my dogs back a mile to a point where someone said they had seen the two thugs cross the road. This party insisted that the lawbreakers had gone in different directions from that which had been followed by the dogs. Upon reaching the place indicated by the informer, the dogs followed the tracks for a short distance then doubled back and followed the trail origionally taken. The tracks soon proved to be a Negro's tracks. Bloodhounds follow the scent of the person and not his visible tracks. For this reason, in following a fresh trail under favorable conditions, they may travel as much as 100 feet to the right or left of the trail. Where the fugitive changes directions, they may over run visible tracks and pick up the trail some distance ahead where he resumes the origional direction of travel. Such experiences might lead some to believe that bloodhounds are not reliable. A trained bloodhound is absolutely reliable in following a given scent as long as it is possible for any animal to follow it. On this mentioned race, Ol' Frank, my start dog, was clubbed or kicked and two weeks later, I heard him talking to the Master of Dog Heaven. He made a whining noise when he saw me, and seemed to say, "It is finished". He is now buried in Panola County jail yard, a marker at his grave. Any unsatisfactory results are due to an untrained dog, unfavorable conditions for tracking, or inexperience on the part of the person handling the dog. I've found from experience that the best results are obtained when dogs are turned loose and not restricted to a leash. The chief objective to this is that you want to be mounted on horseback, in order to stay with the dogs. East Texas fences are many so I mostly take it on foot.

From Experience: Experience has also shown that the best results are obtained by working two dogs at a time. One dog may be used, but, as a trail is sometimes lost and has to be picked up again, two dogs are faster than one. When more than two dogs are used, I find that there is more confusion, and more difficulty in keeping the dogs at work. Contrary to popular belief, a bloodhound gets a certain scent and follows only the one scent, regardless of how many other persons may have been at the place where the trailing started. For example, if bloodhounds are used to track two men who have fled from an abandoned auto, the dogs may follow the trail of only one of the two men. If the two separate, the dogs will stay on the trail of the one they were origionally following. It is possible, however, that each dog may follow the scent of a different man. In that case, the dogs will go in different directions when the trail of the two men separate. If two fugitives are being sought, but the dogs pick up the trail of only one, they will not trail the second man until the memory of the first man has been forgotten by them.

Take Up Scent: I estimate it will take a bloodhound two or three hours to forget a scent sufficiently to take up a second trail. For this reason, when I answer a call, I take all dogs. Two of which are immediately put to work, while the others are held in reserve so as to be available if it becomes necessary to trail another person. Bloodhounds have a highly developed sense of smell, and can be trained to trail either animals or persons. Contrary to some people's belief, bloodhounds are not blood-thirsty. They can be trained to attack or not to attack the person trailed. Whenever they are trained to attack, however, great care must be exercised in order to keep them confined, lest they in some way might harm children or other persons. In trailing felony, it is best to have a dog that will catch. There is a sure cinch that a fugitive will take a tree or if he gets into an auto, there's a chance for a road block and then cause the apprehension of the wanted party or parties.

Up To 70 Hours: I believe a good bloodhound could pick up a scent up to 70 hours after the person trailed has left

the place. The damper the weather, the longer the scent can be picked up. Even in rainy weather, a trail can be picked up so long as the water has not washed over all the tracks. Where only a part of the tracks have been covered by water, the bloodhound can still be able to follow the trail. In East Texas, the hot dry weather makes it very difficult for a dog to pick up a trail.

When bloodhounds follow a trail to the bank of a stream they will work along the bank until they are convinced that the party crossed the stream. After crossing the stream, the dogs will work along the bank until they are able to pick up the other trail on that side of the stream.

Where Used: When bloodhounds are used, all persons should be kept away from the place where the dogs are to pick up the trail. This may consist of some article dropped by the persons to be trailed. A handkerchief, purse, etc. The seat cushion of an abandoned automobile, a footprint left under a window by a burglar or peeping-tom. Speaking of peeping-toms, my dogs were the cause of the arrest and conviction of six peepers in 1947, and 21 criminals in East Texas the same year. If any other person sits in an auto, picks up the dropped article, or walks in the footprint, the bloodhounds will not find one scent, but a mixture of two or more. It is absolutely necessary that the dogs be given the initial scent, from some article which is only the one distinctive scent.

Thereafter, the dogs will be able to pick out and follow that scent, even though it may be a bit at times mingled with others. Any place where a person walks or sits, or any garment worn by an individual for any period of time will contain the distinctive scent of that person. The longer the garment is worn, however, the better the dogs will be able to pick up the scent, as the bloodhounds rely solely on smell for trailing. Leather readily retains a scent and after the shoes have been worn a few times, it is possible for a bloodhound to continue the trail made by shoes even on a paved street. Rubber boots or shoes do not interfere much with trailing.

Trail Negro: Recently I trailed a Negro in Harrison County, that was wearing rubber boots. The Negro had clubbed a white man with a Kant hook and made his break for freedom. In two hours and thirty minutes, Ol' Rock and Fanny was calling his age. Rock said "how old is he?" Fanny answered "about 21 or 22". Bloodhounds will work for anyone and no great skill is necessary in order to use them. Each dog has his or her own peculiarities and will work better when these are taken into consideration. For example, some dogs may require firm handling, while a more sensitive dog would be inclined to cower when spoken to in a rough manner. For this reason, it is desirable that dogs of the same nature be worked together. Like all dogs, bloodhounds like nothing better than a hunting trip. In order to keep them in good condition, it is necessary that dogs with two or three years experience should be worked at least once each week. Dogs of less experience should be worked more often. Daily, if possible. The dogs enjoy even practice runs. They soon learn to distinguish between trips of practice and real chase. As for the dogs themselves, I have found that the female dog is steadier.

Thursday February 22, 1951
No Story.

Thursday March 1, 1951

Sheriff's Column, by Corbett Akins: Last week's article had its tail cut off. No, the Sheriff does not think the commissioners are confused. I think we have four of the best in the state. The article should have read as follows: There is always a little confusion in Commissioner's Court meets because of the great amount of miles we travel. I am glad they make us all prove our expenses, because that is good business. What some don't realize is that the Sheriff travels both night and day. Wish the burglars would do their work at decent hours. We travel lots of miles, but we make the most of them when everybody is sleeping. Four cars during January covered almost 2,000 miles each. Not bad. Let's keep the "boogie man" away. Money is cheap. Lives and property are dear, so your expenses for this traveling

are very reasonable indeed. Judge Sharpe is on the job, a good one. He must know before he ok's the account. Mr. Thurman, the auditor wonders why we can't eat hamburgers instead of eating T-Bone steaks. The money of Old Panola is protected when the account enters the south of the court house.

Speaking of Judge Sharpe, Travis Gentry, constable of Beckville picked up a Marshall boot-legger and the 'legger entered a plea of guilty before Judge Sharpe. Judge Sharpe said, "boy you look like a good man. I will be nice to you. Your fine will be $250.00 and costs, thirty days in county jail, with eleven months probation". It was all done with a smile.

I have three in jail that were picked up with about thirty bottles of whiskey, Saturday night. It will be rough. The courts have joined in with us to stop the 'leggers.

The last two that were picked up this week were Shelby and Harrison County parties. They were trying to dodge the law. Picked up two more violaters Saturday night. They had a pistol. The man was searched, but the woman had the 45. She said she didn't know where that pistol came from. She said somebody just jabbed it up under her blouse. Wanted to know if it was really a pistol. She will find out more about it when our county attorney lets her hear from him. She pled guilty. $100.00 fine. Well, we were called to Overton this week, wanting the dogs. We left some business with the official of Rusk County, trailed down a house prowler. Our business is sometimes rough, but with the help of the City officers, Highway Patrol, and constable of Old Panola, we are going to make Old Panola a better place to live.

This week we issued receipts to the bootleggers for the 100 bottles of liquor, but they won't be getting it back. All of the liquor confiscated goes directly to the state liquor patrol board and they will be happy to hear that we have a big supply for them. I still believe that the Good Book says that the way of the transgressor is hard.

There are lots of Sheriffs in the U.S. with a total of 3,004 counties and 64 parishes. The last few weeks have been very busy ones. The first thing for Monday was to clear the jail. We had a few Justice court cases and several County court cases. The collection for that day was several hundred dollars fines.

Monday night we were called by the Rusk County Sheriff to investigate some theft jobs of the County. We recovered quite a bit of property, about 2:00 a.m. and the two suspects were carried to Rusk County jail.

We had a juvenile to carry to the boy's ranch. Deputy Adams left Tuesday for Amarillo, to the home where delinquent boys may go. It is nice for someone to prepare a home like the boy's ranch. Our county attorney made a trip to see if it was a decent place for juveniles and he states that it is wonderful. I am sure that Mr. Adams hit this blizzard.

We were notified about a murder, but found it to be in Rusk County, at Tatum Texas. Two 18 year old boys had a fight, one was stabbed to death. We have some severe murders just out of Panola County. Also several theft and burglary jobs.

Wonderful cooperation from the people is helping keep open our plan. Many this week that I am proud of, and that is this: the City has bought a radio for the Police car. And by doing so, we can all render better law enforcement. I know that is what the City and County people want. We will also have a radio operator for night duty, paid by the City. Chief Jones and his officers are qualified to get the job done. The City Commissioners, Manager, and Mayor, want the people to have what they pay for. My department is very happy to work with them and get this job done better. Just call 122 and see how quick an officer will meet you.

We were called to Henderson to search for a man supposed to have been murdered in Rusk or Panola County. A long night search but we didn't find the murdered party. We have spent some time with Shelby County officers. Someone

stole eight head of cattle in that county, but I got in on it too late. Today there hasn't been any arrests.

We got another pistol packer. The Judge was nice to him. Just $100.00 in cost and 30 days in jail. So the people will be safe that long. The driver is the party that cut one car half into, and wrecked his own. But at that, he crawled out of the flying steel and wanted to whip the man that hit him. Police Carpenter had a 95 mile race Tuesday night but caught him. He radioed in to have Judge Cariker meet him at the City office, and a good fine slowed him down. It is rough for those violaters now.

Speaking of police, Mr. Brannon had a nice visit to the Panola County Hospital. Well, he left his appendix, but now he's doing fine, working every day. We got a call to go to Center and bring the dogs. We made the trip, but no luck. Too much water on the ground. Tuesday night, we got a call from Shelby County. A burglar at Tenaha. They were nice boys, they paid Bethany a visit. But the Sheriff has them on the spot and will jail them soon.

Well, the Game Warden paid us a visit this week and really cooperated. He states we have more game in the future with just one snow a year. The Sheriff tried to track a buck down during the last snow.

I was called Tuesday night to a fish fry on Hill Lake and the boys were nice to me. I am proud that they know I like fish. Good Ol' Buffalo.

Mr. Bill Barnett's filling station was entered after midnight Tuesday, but they treated him nice. They lit the heater in order that his office would be warm. While they were warming, they ate some of his salted peanuts. But what I didn't like about it was, they broke a window to enter. The suspects are four young women of the City of Carthage that were drunk. They had just left Kilgore and are now looking for a job.

Another hot check artist this week. He was picked up by Deputies Reeves and Adams. He was tried and convicted.

The Judge gave him 60 days in jail and told him the little time in jail would help his soul. Judge Pitts took a peep at the check offender. The artist was drunk when found.

While on the street Tuesday morning, I saw three boys watching me. I checked and saw that they had run away from home. I called one of the boys' mother and asked her if she had a son missing. She cried with joy and asked "is he alright?". I placed them in the hold-over and held a telephone conversation with all the parents. I was wired $100.00 to buy a ticket and send them to their homes in Cleveland, Mississippi.

See ya next week,
Corbett

Thursday March 8, 1951

Monday was a day for a plea of guilty. A number paid fines.

Catch 'Legger: One East side Negro bootlegger..... one who has been very hard to catch..... stepped off a bus into the waiting arms of Deputy "Cush" Reeves. Mr. Reeves was very busy accomodating, however as he helped the 'legger carry his whiskey to jail. Judge Sharpe was equally as nice..... $100.00 and cost with a present of one year in jail.

Mr. Adams "robbed" the whiskey locker this week and carried the contents to the Longview Liquor Control Board, which is turned over to Austin authorities.

A Shreveport lad was picked up by the Highway Patrol for driving while drunk. That makes a total of three such cases this week

Beer Cans: Did you ever see the like of beer cans on the highways nowadays? Some few tried the other day to make a dumping ground for beer cans in a local cafe, but with the aid of Chief Jones and his department, it was a very expensive "dump".

Teenage: Mamas, you'd better wake up! At least some of you had. Picked up a few girls hugging beer cans with one hand. Well, they may tell you what they were hugging with the other.

I don't believe there is any such thing as born juvenile delinquents. Someone was delinquent ahead of them. Delinquency is like a cold they catch. Who keeps beer in the ice box to set the example?

Letter: Received a letter this week from the runaway boys' parents, thanking me for the nice treatment and courtesy shown their sons while they were in my custody.

Flat Foot Sue: Well, the colored folks had a girl, Flat Foot Sue, to use a "Dallas Special" this week. Flat Foot Sue is now cooling her flat tootsies in the local jail.

Spring is Here: Folks, spring must be here from the number of underworld characters at work hereabouts and over the state. Don't be taken in when some stranger comes to your house to borrow an article. Be sure you know them. If not, you stand a chance of losing your silverware, fur coat, etc.

Here in Carthage as well as elsewhere in the State, hardware dealers have had some sad experiences with a large man accompanied by two large women. The man usually purchases some small item like tacks or the like. But the women take a rifle, shotgun, etc. Pace Hardware had such an experience.

We haven't had too many shoplifters locally, but they're right around the corner, so bo on the look-out for them.

Check artists are still with us, we find. Ask Mr. Grady Nutt. A nice appearing young man passed a check on him. Anderson Brothers also had a similar experience, but the City Officers and Sheriff's Department made a quick pick up here. The "Gentleman" is wanted in several states. Mr. Nutt got his money back. Incidentally, the forgers will go to Lake Charles, then we'll get a punch at them in our own

May term of Court. They'll be back.

Much Beer: Lots of beer this week. Summer is coming. If you're going to get a case or two, let the Sheriff know before you load up. I am stopping the bootleg racket but for the home user, tell me everything or tell the Judge. It must and will be stopped!

Convict Hunt: Our Deputies are on the lookout for an escaped convict from Virginia. A little help from citizens will be fine. If someone comes to your home for a handout, don't move any dishes..... that is, unless you can't call us, which you should. Don't move or touch the dishes. We may can get finger prints from them.

At Home: Good friends seem to feel at home in the Sheriff's outer office. I hear a lot of talk that goes on out there. They mix their talk with their chewing tobacco and dips of Old Garrett. From their conversation, you can tell Spring is nearly here, because their subject usually is fishing or about Hadacol. One visitor, Mr. Cattle talks mostly of smelling oil in Panola County.

Drunk Drivers: Drunk drivers, we're after you!

We had another drunk driver this week, after I'd already started writing this, and he was a tough one. I had to knock him loose from a pocket knife. Tried to stop him several times, but he said he was going home. He was going south, but his home is in Marshall. Must have gotten a little turned around.

This fellow must have a good wife. Said when he got drunk, she puts him to bed.

Beckville Constable: The Beckville Constable brought in a rough one this week. Seems he got a little mouse under the eye in doing so. A black eye is supposed to make a good officer a better one.

An F.B.I. agent, a Mr. Standfield, a Panola County boy, was here with us this week. He was here helping on the case

of the dead body found four miles south of Nacogdoches. We always get excellent cooperation from the F.B.I., Texas Rangers, and Highway Officers. We also get fine help from Chief Jones and Constables Travis Gentry, Burton Mangham and several others.

Mr. Baker of Jumbo gave us a hurried call last week about 1:30 a.m. The reason being that a visitor "borrowed" a new suit and radio. Hope to find out how the suit fits pretty soon.

Thursday March 15, 1951

Tragedy: This past week started with an awful tragedy. One of the worst I've ever seen. A woman was found dead and a man mighty bloody from a slashed throat. The mentioned party was found on Highway 59 North, near Grand Bluff river crossing.

The woman had been shot with a pistol which was lying on the seat and the pocket knife was on the floor board with the blade open. The man is now in the Hospital guarded by the Sheriff's Department. Charges of murder have been filed against him.

The woman has been buried at Ringold La. She was the mother of three children. A girl 14, one 12 and a boy 5. Her husband lives in Shreveport.

Court Monday: We had County Court Monday and a number entered a plea of guilty for driving while drunk. They all got nice fines and a number of days in jail. One man got 12 months probation.

We caught two bootleggers. The Judge fined $100.00 in cost and six months in jail. Chief Prentice Jones and his department also got themselves a 'legger last week.

Runaway Boy: We had another runaway boy picked up by the local Police Dept. Chief Reeves notified the parents for the boy so he could return to his home in Chicago.

February: February was a short and busy month. Our Sheriff's Dept traveled 9,340 miles. Averaged 2,350 miles per car and 75 miles per day at the cost of seven cents per mile. It is expensive to uphold the law alright.

Wrecks: There are far too many. Many lives are lost, and bodies crippled needlessly.

Along these lines our officers had a metting last Thursday to make plans toward putting a stop to this needless waste of lives and property. So hold your temper if you have to pay a fine. It's your own protection as well as the other fellow.

Here's the law on a subject that will stop many wrecks.

Article 1370A of the Revised Penal Code.

Any person owning and having control of any horse, donkey, mule, cow, bull, steer, hog, sheep, goat, or any other livestock who permits the same to traverse or roam at large untended on the right of any designated State Highway in this State, where the same is enclosed by fence on both sides shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, will be fined any sum not exceeding Two Hundred ($200.00) dollars. Each day that such animal afore said is allowed or permitted to so roam at large on the right-of-way of any designated State Highway in this State where the same is enclosed by fences shall constitute a separate offense.

We did not make this law, but we'll enforce it. Let's cooperate.

Swindeler at Work: Friday we had several calls. Watch out. There is a swindeler working out of Old Mexico. A number of letters have been mailed to Carthage telling how easy it is to get rich. I have mailed the information to F.B.I. They have asked all officers to warn the people not to fall for such a scheme.

Mad Dogs: Your best friend is your dog. Let's take care of him. A good dog is lots of help, but report those

that roam and we will try to help stop this scare. One dog that did bite several dogs, his head was sent to Austin. Report back, Rabies. Those that were bitten can be saved by having them treated. See your Veterinarian. City Officers have been lots of help this week, because we have had to keep an officer with the man that attempted to cut his throat and is in the Hospital.

Bootleggers Again: Well, I stated before, we are trying our best to stop drunk drivers. Several this week, and bootleggers, three of them. One for transporting wine to Carthage from Kilgore. Chief Jones had a race with the transporter, but he came in with the violater. The City had to have some of the prisoners. The jail was full. Packed up another nice load of whiskey. 250 cases or 6,000 pints of bonded liquor. With the help of the liquor control, we confiscated the truck and trailer. With whiskey and truck valued at $20,000.00, the two men made bond. They were transporting into Lawton Ok. and will be tried here in the March term of County Court. Again you will know them by their deeds. Saturday night, Mr. Lloyd Moore was riding with me. He drove by "T" Cafe. I saw a man look at me. I told Lloyd that man was a crook. He laughed and asked me how did I know. I took the number of his car. JF6968 and passed on by, and something told me to go back, and we did. But the car was gone. But we met the car-hop wringing her hands and stated Mr. so-and-so gave her a $5.00 bill to pay for two drinks and she made a mistake and gave change to the wrong party and said that it was the car that just left. For $24.20 he made his get-away and look out for car JF6968. We have long been unable to date to apprehend the subject, but have his home address.

Thursday March 22, 1951
No Story

Thursday March 29, 1951

After an all night vigil, Sunday night, you can bet your boots we were ready to throw the book at law violaters by morning.

It all started Saturday night when we got a call that a certain bootlegger was loading up his whiskey in Kilgore and gave his license number. A Panola County car. Accompanied by the night watchman, jailer and county attorney, we took out. We covered every road. By 5:30 a.m., the suspect was in town, but he evaded us by some hook or crook, so I guess there will be some liquor in town this week. That's the way it goes. Sometimes you catch 'em, sometimes you don't. But we made a sincere effort and lost lots of sleep on this one, not to score.

Not Wasted: Staying up Saturday night was not altogether wasted. We did pick up three drunk drivers, a few crap shooters and I found a man who seemed to have a good business. He couldn't imagine why I was watching his house at 4:30 a.m., Sunday. I hope he has found out.

Prisoners: Paid my prisoner who is in the Hospital a visit Sunday. He didn't seem to be resting very well. He was wondering why a preacher was visiting him. I am sure he is ready to repent. He gave us a written confession.

He also told me that the continued use of whiskey would destroy any man. With many years of experience as an officer, I agree with him.

Hot Checks: Sunday, I had a man come to see me about a hot check deal. I told him to be in Court Monday and pay his fine.

Sunday closed with a call that night of a prowler. We checked and found the prowler to be a "rum head".

Monday: Monday turned out to be a busy day with the city and county officials. We cleared the jails. Some had posted bond the previous day, a number paid fines, two drunk drivers entered a plea of guilty, and are still in jail. No money to pay the fines.

The men from Lawton Ok. were here with their lawyers. You may bet they will have to come up "to lick the log". There is a racket where a few cars crossed our county and got by. They seem to think the law in La. is very easy on

the tax on liquor. But if they fool around in 'Ol Panola County, you can bet the tax is going to be mighty high.

Gypsy Women: Monday, we picked up two Gypsy women. We received a report from the west part of the county to be on the look-out for them. We found in their possession a ham, two quilt tops, a blow torch, and a mattress. Keep me posted on such characters. They are vags and I don't permit them to stop in this county.

To Rusk: Tuesday started with committment papers for two insane persons for Rusk. Makes three this week. They were carried to Rusk by John Q. Adams, and Police Officer Brannon. Wednesday saw the bootlegger who said he was not guilty get a $250.00 fine. Also Wednesday, the Sheriff was called to Tyler to testify about two men who had burglarized in Smith County. We caught them here in December in a chase with the hounds. Thursday was a quiet day. Seemed the bad boys are going to let us draw an occasional breath. I did get a rush call to come to the Hospital as soon as possible. When I arrived, I found my wife had given a pint of blood to the blood bank. She would not stay in bed as directed and swooned away or something. From the looks of her face, she had been to an Irish wedding.

We officers tried to visit as many places as we could Thursday night, but everything was pretty quiet. Only one violater, a drunk driver. We were actually looking for cattle thieves. Watch your herd. Be sure and brand and mark your livestock. So far, we have been lucky.

As for theft and burglary, for three and one half years we haven't had a safe-cracking job nor more than $100.00 worth of merchandise stolen. But be sure and make a quick report if something is found missing. Put your money safe and sound at the front of the building where anyone pilfering can be seen. This is mighty good insurance against theft.

A Tip: We got a tip on more Ok. liquor being transported. We patrolled the state line until 12:15 p.m. The phone was calling for the Sheriff. A voice said come to my

house, my husband was going to kill me. I made the call, the husband went to jail, and Judge Pitts collected a fine Saturday morning. The husband said he was leaving Carthage for Houston. His parting words were a complaint about our jail being uncomfortable.

Saturday of this week was quieter than usual. Two drunk drivers, five drunks, a few prowlers. Some spent the night in jail. Call if you need us. Phone 122.

Thursday April 5, 1951

This week started with a bang. Several cases were tried in Justice Court. Seems that each week crimes keep going. We read of crimes and hear of it, but to really study crime completely, it would take the rest of our lives. It is just that big and large of scope.

I think we are blessed in 'Ol Panola from the small amount of crime in comparison to the large scale amount of it elsewhere. We have our share of it alright, and make a lot of calls to keep criminals away from our county. Records disclose that other counties are having worlds of trouble.

When crime is so organized that counties are linked together , it is high time the legislature looked into it. The Grand Jury in one county cannot wipe out a syndicate.

Texas Crime Report: I have just recently received the Texas Crime Report from the Department of Public Saftey for the year 1950. This report will make a fellow sit up and take notice. Also do a little serious thinking.

The estimated offenses each day for 1950 are broken down as follows.

Murder and Homicide	3
Rape	3
Robberies	7
Burglaries	72
Aggravated Assault	22

Theft	29
Total a day	277

Now mind you, that's the number of crimes each day in Texas.

I don't want to bore you with a lot of figures, but I think the people of Texas should know more about crime in their state. I at least want my people here in Panola County to be informed.

During 1950, the total for crime based on a rate of 100,000 was as follows:

Murder and Homicide	1,175
Rape	1,058
Robbery	2,434
Burglary	26,352
Aggravated Assault	8,011
Theft	51,610
Auto Theft	10,659
Total for year	101,299

So you can readily see that crime is on the up swing rather than downward.

Find Still: Tuesday, March 28, we found the big boy moved in and set up house keeping about four miles west of Beckville. After several days searching, we discovered the largest still ever set up in Panola County. I led the search, and was abley assisted by Travis Gentry, Constable of Beckville. Plenty of whiskey and equipment. This mash was boiled off with a 200 gallon butane set up. We found seven Mexicans, (wet backs) but they could "no savvy". They'll be deported to Old Mexico. The white man in charge was released to federal authorities in Tyler.

DeBerry: While we were patting ourselves on the back, thinking we had done a pretty good job getting rid of this still, we got word of corn liquor flowing near DeBerry. Our back patting didn't last long, because we had to take out and look into this matter. After a search late at night we were able to make a "buy". We arrested a Negro and were

able to close another budding Panola County industry.

Young Folks: I appreciate what our editor said last week in an editorial about the young people of Panola County. They are good kids. I do everything in my power to help them.

Our youngsters in Panola County are a little more fortunate than youngsters in larger cities. I have some facts and figures from the Child Welfare League of America, that I'll relate the first week that things slow down a little. They're mighty interesting.

Marijuana: Last week we caught a car load of Negroes. Four men and one woman from Port Arthur with a car load of Marijuana. After chase they were caught and turned over to the Federals.

I took a draw off of one of the Marijuana cigarettes. A new graveyard would be too good for a human who would deliberately and habitually smoke rot like that. I always liked to try anything. I did, but no more.

There are times when a law enforcer has to try everything to catch a violater. I went in on a still one time and helped cook up a batch until I caught the entire crew. I also once slipped into a dice game with about 20 whites and several Negroes shooting crap. But I was recognized when I started to fade the party next to me. At that, the Negroes got away, and from the rate they were running, they probably ended up in a new land.

Thursday April 12, 1951

Saturday night a man that believes in law enforcement called me and said, while driving along the road, a small girl walking with a limp, excitedly rushed to his car and cried "please do something, my Daddy has nearly killed me, and is beating my Mother to death!"

When reported to me, I rushed out to the place. Folks there were six crying frightened babies cowering under beds and other places trying to hide. The wife was hidden in the

dark. We saw the husband hurriedly dash across to a light and put it out. We went on into the house and nothing was to be seen but a tell-tale bottle of old man Seagram 7. With the contents almost gone, but we knew daddy was there.

Constable Johnny Roberts of DeBerry peered into a closet and shouted "come out of there!". I looked closer and saw a man's foot that was not quite hidden among the old clothes.

He spent the night in the County Bastille. Next day, the wife reported in and said she couldn't support the six babies and herself, so Judge Pierce fined him $25.00. The man shed a few tears and said he'd quit drinking a number of times and now he was quitting again. Judge sprayed a little brown mule tobacco, (the Judge always cogitates best when he has a good chew) and told the man he had better straighten up. He said he planned to stop these wife beatings. He further told him that a man's wife and babies are the only real bouqute he has. Why some men wamt to mistreat and destroy such beautiful flowers is something he couldn't understand.

Miss Sunday School: I missed Sunday School the last Sabbath, because the jail was full. I guess my class will have to move over to the Court House so I can attend.

One poor boy tried to tell me his troubles but was so excited he became tongue-tied and has to stick his finger in his mouth to talk. He said "call Daddy".

Another boy called for "Daddy" even though he had broken a window out of his Daddy's house and chased his people with a gun.

Another prisoner wanted me to bring him a Bible.

Negroes: We had a Negro Preacher and a Negro hobo in jail. Both told me that something was eating them up there in jail. A search disclosed that if cooties were worth 10¢ a day the hobo was worth a million dollars. He was covered with them.

So I put in a day of spraying and bathing and de-cooty-ing the jail. That's jail lice. Those things happen quite often.

Killed Hogs: Sunday afternoon, a voice yelled "hurry I found where someone killed my hog!". We found where the hog had been butchered. Its hide and head had been tossed into a ravine. But in crime there is always a slip. We found near the scene some newspapers with the party's name on them. The case was very easily solved. Two men involved.

Stolen Cows: Monday, a Negro man reported a stolen cow. The Deputies J.Q. Adams and Cush Reeves found the complaining party and checked as he had suggested. The old Darky who had lost the cow said he had looked into his crystal ball, and seen the cow and two parties that stole her. The Deputies looked into the crystal ball but it must have been out of focus or something because they couldn't see anything. So the case is still unsolved and the old Darky is still looking in that crystal ball, and said he'd report to us as soon as he tuned in on the thieves and the cow. If the crystal ball works, I'm going before the Commissioner's Court to see if we can't put in order for several of them. All this crystal balling happened in Commissioner Heavy Furrh's precinct. It is easy to see why he's making good as a Commissioner. He consults that old Darky's crystal ball and knows just exactly what is the right thing to do.

Black Cadillac: Got a radio call from Birmingham Ala. to be on the look-out for a black cadillac containing two desperate criminals. We got the report that the car had been seen leaving Shreveport. We grabbed an armful of guns and took out. We apprehended the black cadillac soon after. Don't know who was more jittery, the occupants of the car or us, but it wasn't the right party. Just another cadillac.

Peeping Toms: Tuesday night, we got a call about a peeping-tom. I harnessed up 'Ol Doc, the bloodhound, and took the trail from the window. The trail led us to the Colored quarters of Cook addition. But we lost the trail. Anyway, Prentice Jones and I knew we had a prowler in Carthage. I'm sure we got close enough to the peeper to scare

him to a new way of living.

New Angle: A new game in crime. A man in business in Carthage came to my office and said he'd had a call from Tenaha. They wanted $40.00 wired to his residence 12 miles on Highway 79 East and get the key to his pickup. It was hidden under the rug. Take the pickup and hold it until he came home, and then he would return the $40.00. He said he had a load of cattle and his truck was broke down, but to hurry and wire the money. Instead, I told the Carthage man to let's go to Tenaha. We found that the party had called for the money and had called again from Timpson, stating for the depot agent to transfer it to a certain place. He failed to get his $40.00 and we missed our man so you can see it is best to call the law. The man had no home 12 miles East and the name he gave did not live anywhere.

Friday a call to the Flatwood. I found a few natives enjoying the alcohol spirits but they are now in a good hotel where they can't fall out and hurt themselves and no one can get in and hurt them.

Thursday April 19, 1951

Sunday was a busy day for my Deputies, Cush Reeves and and John Q. Adams. In the East side of the County, there was quite a bit of disturbance. But the offenders were found and placed in jail with drunkenness.

March has been a busy month. Hardy Pitts, Judge of the Justice Court, collected in fines for misdemeanors, $439.30 and fines and costs in County were $1,570.40. Included in County Court were 17 drunk drivers and 6 whiskey or bootlegger cases. We covered lots of miles in March, but they were well spent. Mileage for each officer in the Sheriff's Dpt. was 1,918 miles for your Sheriff, 3,290 for Chief Reeves, 2,715 for Deputy John Q. Adams, and 2,719 for Deputy McNeese. A total mileage of 10,642.

Jury Service: Monday, County Court met again and a number of men reported for jury service. The State and Defense selected a jury in the case of the Ok. whiskey hauler.

He was tried and convicted, $500.00 and costs. It was a pleasure to watch our County Judge take care of his Court and keep the defense and State lawyers from fussing.

Whips Wife: Tuesday morning the City had two drunk drivers and a Negro man whipped his wife with a crowbar. After making bond, the man asked me if he could go home. He said he really had a mean woman.

There is a place in town where every man that wants to do wrong can go. The proprietor has been drunk for ten days. Two women fought there one night and two the following day, so we took out after the boss and caught him as he slipped through a window. He is in jail now. I have called in the district attorney for his help, and the cooperation of the City. I want a big pad lock put on the door. There was a three woman fight in West Carthage, Tuesday evening. That makes a total of seven women that engaged in hair pulling contests.

Drunk Driver: Wednesday another County Court jury was selected to try a drunk driver. After several hours of arguing, the jury was given the case and they came back and gave the defendent $100.00, and cost. This defendent was driving one of these long trailer trucks, crossing back and forth across the middle stripe and when he was stopped by the Highway Patrol, he had a bottle of whiskey in his hand, but still he didn't think he should plead guilty while driving under the influence of whiskey.

Unsigned Letter: The Sheriff has been getting some cards and letters which are not signed. I keep all such letters and file for information. We have in Carthage somebody that will be questioned by the post office inspector soon. Somebody had better read section 363 postal laws and regulations of 1948. Don't be afraid of your name and signature. Help your Sheriff, and I can make a better officer.

I heard a good sermon Friday night be Rev. Carroll Chadwick. His subject was the three greatest sinners. He named them as Judas, Pilot, and Simon Peter.

The jail is almost vacant. We made up money and paid the balance of one boy's fine. Another brought him a ticket to Houston with the promise he would make a better man. But we still have the party that murdered the woman and the man that forged the checks on our ex-mayor. It will be May before they leave us.

Thursday April 26, 1951

Saturday evening a man rushed into my office wet and cold. He excitedly stated a little boy had drowned in Hill Lake. I called the Carthage Fire Department before rushing to the scene. Upon arrival, we found a boat and grapple hooks were needed. We radioed to Tyler and got quick response from Captain Smith and the Tyler District.

We searched until 12:40 before finding the body. We learned that the tragedy was caused by the boat capsizing. The two men had the boy to the boat twice but he would slide off. One man made it to the shore while the other worked trying to hang on to the boy. His companion on shore tried to pull him in but something seemed to pull him under. He later discovered it was the boy's body. Unfortunately they didn't know this or maybe he could have been saved.

We all gain something, even from a great tragedy like this. It could have been your boy. Precautions are very good watchwords for all of us.

Thanks to All: I want to say thanks for the cooperation in our search Saturday night. It was mighty nice of the cafes, Stoval's Cafe, Carthage Coffee Shop, T's, White Castle, and Linvall Greer Cafe to furnish sandwiches and coffee for the boys who helped battle the water to find the little boy's body. And, too, thanks for the large glass bottomed boat that was brought down by Mr. C.O. Black. We cannot give our volunteers too much praise for their untiring efforts in the search and to the help from the Department of Public Safety of Tyler Texas.

Dynamite Caps: Along this line, I want to warn parents about these dynamite caps that are usually found around

where a pipeline is being built. We have such a line going through the county now, and no matter how careful the workers may be, there is always danger of a stray cap.

Youngsters, don't touch one of these caps. They are blasting caps and are very sensitive. They are little cylinders of shiny copper or aluminum, and explosions could put out an eye, tear off an arm or foot. Do not touch them. If you find one, leave it alone. Call an officer.

A recent national survey disclosed that blasting cap accidents to children between 7 and 15 occured in 28 states.

Sunday we had a call from the East side of the County. Someone had stolen a money safe from a store. We searched and found the safe along the road with the door broken open. A sum of $40.00 had been taken. The man said he recognized the fellow when he rolled the safe out of his car. I had the suspect placed in jail in Dallas. I sent Deputy Reeves over for him, but Dallas authorities which seemed to be accustomed with him wouldn't turn him over.

Deputy Adams: Deputy Adams had a rough call this week. A man on the River Hill had taken, but he wound up in jail and minus $25.00

Constable Gentry of Beckville took out after a bad boy Tuesday and had to chase him almost to Carthage before he caught him. He had whipped his wife and torn up dishes and furniture. He too had lots of fun. $48.00 worth, in fact.

Drunk Drivers: More drunk drivers this week. Two of them entered a plea of guilty and asked us to call somebody to pay their fine. Not much credit extended on fines around a Courthouse ya know.

Wednesday afternoon, we bounced a fellow that "borrowed" two batteries from Dr. Braher's mill. These batteries disappeared six weeks ago. Again crime doesn't pay.

Chicken Chase: This week a good woman went home late and visited her chicken houses before retiring. She found

four chicken heads that were still warm. It wasn't long before I had Doc, Nip, and Tuck, on the job.

"Come on, come on!" 'Ol Nip bayed. 'Ol Doc answered "follow me".

About that time 'Ol Doc said "here they are", and by golly, there he was!

Next morning, there was no more begging, and another case closed.

Cow Thief: Thursday night, a call from the Sheriff of Sulpher Springs wanting to know if he could get the dogs there Friday morning. That he had a cow thief that lived in Arkansas and came into Raines, Woods and Hopkins Counties and steal cattle, and leave out to Arkansas. They had been after him several months. The Sheriff stated he knew the suspect was in the woods and did not want him to get away. We were there Friday morning and began a search. We found his hiding place and blanket. I turned the dogs loose and in one hour and one half, 'Ol Doc, Nip, and Tuck, and Trailer were looking at him in a tree, but the tree was about to fall.

The first tree he had got into did fall, but the dogs worked him over before he could make it to another tree. I asked the suspect why he didn't give up when he heard the dogs. His answer was "didn't have time" for those were the meanest dogs he'd ever seen.

I never saw a bunch of officers so interested in catching a man. Four Sheriffs and Deputies of four Counties.

Friday night, three Negro fights, two drunks, and one drunk driver. The drunk driver was put in jail. His wife and three babies slept in the car. Another rough deal. Somebody's stealing the feed from the trough of a bunch of mules. The boys will be near the trough this night, Saturday. Hope I can tell next week who was sorry enough to steal from a dumb brute.

Call from Shreveport La. A 59 year old woman picked up driving drunk from Carthage Tx. Her fine was paid.

Thursday May 3, 1951

This week started very slow. It was the first time I could recall when the Sheriff's Department didn't make any arrests during the week. We did patrol the east end of Panola, but I managed to go to Sunday School. Most of my time on Sunday is spent helping someone out of jail. I had four calls from the Kilgore jail wanting me to stand good for their fines. One pair was relieved of $40.00 by the Police Department of Kilgore. $40.00 at Panola County has long been collecting in the past.

Sunday evening, we had a nice crowd at the jail. I appreciate them, because they were interested in the saving of lost souls. We had a nice service. I heard one man tell them that he had spent half of his life behind bars. He had been to the pen twice and had a $65.00 fine to pay, and his cell mate was a one time loser and was sent down to the big house. One Negro prisoner told them to ask the Lord to help them and that his sentence was affirmed and one to two years was a long time. He is the Negro that two cows followed to the sale. Another Negro was worried about his future. He woke up one morning with the other fellow's hog in his smoke house. The bloodhounds paid him about a year ago, and he made his bond but took off. I found him in Woodville and brought him back last week.

Monday Busy Day: Monday was a busy day. Someone picked up two calves or they got lost from the herd. Also we are working on a burglary job. We have been unable so far to find out who was with the Dallas suspect.

Tuesday we had a conviction of a drunk driver picked up by the Highway Patrol. He was fined $100.00 and given six months probation. This makes a total of four D.W.I. cases this week. Justice Court collected a total from the four cases, $57.00, Monday and Tuesday.

Negro Boy: Tuesday, about dark, a report came of a 12 year old Negro boy who would not let his Daddy whip him. So he went to the river bottom. The hounds found him. While on that chase, the Sheriff of Henderson radioed me that he had a burglary job, and needed the dogs but we had to take

care of Panola County first. We had a call waiting for us at the office from a lady who wanted us to come to her house as her husband had whipped her. We answered the call and the woman signed a complaint, but Wednesday, they came into Court together and the charges were dismissed.

Big Race: We had a race Tuesday night with three boys who were disturbing the peace. They went to Smith's drive-in and left with several light bulbs. I placed them on the stairway of the Courthouse and let them worry a while and then sent them to the drive-in to talk to the manager. They begged me not to tell their parents. I have not, but they live in the city limits. One on the north side, one on the west side, and one south-west of the square.

Drunk Driver: City Police picked up a drunk driver Wednesday, and he spent the night in jail. Thursday, another drunk driver was picked up, so Monday will be a busy day for County Court. We were busy during the three days of the band meet as all officers are alerted, trying to protect the youngsters.

The district attorney was here Thursday to help us officers get the place closed that we mentioned before. I expect to see that the people are protected so if you hear of a violation, let me know.

I have missed Uncle Walter Anderson this week, as he has been away from the office due to illness. He is always loyal to his work and knows how to do his job.

Car Wreck: Two local boys were involved in a car wreck this week. But no severe injuries resulted, although they were taken to the Hospital. This has been a very busy week for the Hospital. There's been several deaths, but it was mostly people who have passed their three score and ten. We are always sorry for them and their loved ones.

An outside Negro was in Carthage Friday and got into trouble with the Sheriff. A small Negro boy asked him to give him two nickels for a dime. He took the dime and refused to give it back to the boy. When he slapped him, I

introduced him to the Sheriff and gave him sleeping quarters. He will come before Mr. Pitts to pay his fine.

On Rampage: A colored woman was on the rampage again. I got a call Saturday night to come to a house for investigation. Dishes were broken, the stove was turned over, butter and milk had been poured around and it was the worst torn up kitchen I've ever seen. The dogs trailed the woman home. We found out she had an idea that another woman was going with her husband. Both the husband and the woman denied it. She said she was going to put someone out of house-keeping because she was going to work over every Negro in Cash Black Bottom if they didn't leave her man alone. This woman has given us an awful lot of trouble.

Thursday May 10, 1951
No Story

Thursday May 17, 1951

The past weekend was a busy one. We had two cars that came through loaded with liquor. But in the traffic jam, Saturday, they made their get-away. We had a few drunks Saturday night and one drunk driver. One drunk let loose with a brick-bat and whipped his wife. But the wife was a winner. She had him put in the City jail. He decided it didn't pay to use a brick-bat for a key to the house. He had a woman helping him, but the woman got away.

We had a call to Tatum Thursday, that a dog had bitten a person. But when we got there, the dog seemed alright; the person too, I reckon.

Grand Jury: Monday the Grand Jury started the wheels of justice rolling. I'm sure there will be a few violaters wishing they hadn't done it. The Grand Jury has twelve bills including murder, swindle, sale of mortgaged property, drunken driving (2nd offense) theft over $50.00, wife and child desertion, and assault attempting to murder. Gibson's case has been set for June 11.

Trucks: The State Measure and Weight man has been here. When I was in the Justice of Peace office, I saw a

trucking company manager paying fines. Mr. Pitts should have given him a discount for the many fines he has paid. Truckers had better get right or get their money ready.

Tuesday: Tuesday, we had the report of a number of checks that came to the bank with forged signatures. A few nights ago, someone went into a motor company's garage and stole the motor company's check book, and several of the checks had been cashed. We find it to be the work of a professional. The car tags he was using were stolen in Lufkin.

Travis Gentry, Constable at Beckville found a 22 rifle that had been stolen two years ago. He got the suspect and the case has been closed. The rifle was given back to the owner.

Wednesday: Wednesday we had a report of someone picking up junk from. I believe it was carried to Korea. We were unable to locate it.

We caught a party with corn liquor. But we found it was bought in Harrison County so I am lending my mash hound to that county.

Deputy Reeves picked up a girl that night and placed her in jail for dope addiction. We have a few dopers here, but when we give them the Panola County Cure, they don't stay long. Our bootlegging remedy is working better. The bootlegger that was in question so long in East Texas called me and wanted to know if he could go and get a fifth. The law says yes, but he lost that fifth as Deputy Adams can almost tell.

Thursday May 24, 1951

Saturday, I visited the south-east part of the county, in Gourdneck and Woods Post Office community. Woods community is one place we never have any trouble. I was just down there for their annual get-together.

Saturday night, we had a few calls to the carnival grounds. One Negro was on a drunk paradise. But he was

finnaly apprehended. Later we had a call to the Jumbo community, to meet the Rusk County officer who had gotten a Panola County suspect. That night, Chief Deputy Reeves brought in a drunk from Kilgore. The jail was crowded Sunday.

Burglary: Sunday a call came in from San Agustine about a burglary. Nip, Tuck and the Sheriff and his Deputies stayed busy all day on that case.

Monday was District and Commissioner's Court day. Several cases were set by Judge Sanders. The district attorney had to summon a number of witnesses for the court.

Judge Roe tried a drunk driver. His fine was $50.00 and costs. A good woman of Carthage saw that his fine was paid.

Check Artist: Tuesday we thought we had the check artist that visited our city last week, but after several hours of work, he got away. If these suspects are reported early enough, Mr. Cush Reeves is mighty good on those artists. Through his efforts we got several indictments during the last Grand Jury. Three of them are now in the pen.

Wrong Hog: Wednesday the man who found the wrong hog in the smoke house pleaded guilty and got 10 years probation and has to pay for the hog. Another man entered a plea of guilty for forgery and the Courts gave him four years in the pen. He is wanted in several places. A Negro preacher pleaded guilty for selling mortgaged property. The Courts gave him 5 years probation and he had to pay the mortgage. We have had some complaints about a man and woman who are posing as Government or Salvation Army workers. They prey on old people. They took $105.00 from a good old lady at Tatum. They drive a gray car, make and license unknown. The woman is a gypsy type.

Several calls have come in this week about pulp wood and junk being stolen. Several tools have been carried away.

Housecat: We had a call that someone had stolen a calf and thrown it in a well. When we got through fishing, we found it to be a housecat and the case was solved.

Deputy Cards: Quite a few people have been wanting Deputy cards. Most people think they are an item of authority. But article 421 of the Penal Code says that any Sheriff that will appoint any more Deputies than is approved by the law shall be fined not less than $100.00 or more than $500.00. This article does not apply to counties having more than one District Court, according to article 1903 page 160. So you can see the Sheriff is bound by law the same as anyone else. Some few want cards permitting them to carry pistols and a card. According to article 484, Penal Code, any person can carry arms on his own premises, or his place of business or any person traveling to a certain place alone. You can put your gun in your glove compartment and be safe under the law. But if I give you a permit, I am subject to a fine of $100.00 to $500.00. I have a courtesy card that will be lots of help. Come by my office and get one before planning a trip.

Thursday May 31, 1951
No Story.

Thursday June 7, 1951

Friday and Saturday night we did not make any arrests. We traveled several miles checking and found quite a few cars along the road. But after checking them, they didn't stay long. I found out that in law enforcement, if you let the violater see you on the job, they'll keep moving.

At Flat Woods: Sunday afternoon, there was a lot of disturbance in the Flat Woods. One car came to town with a bullet hole in the door. One man had been whipped over the head with a pistol and another had been shot at twice with a shotgun. We rounded up the gun packers and they are now under bond for the Grand Jury action Thursday.

We helped the Smith County and Rusk County officers round up some burglars that visited Rusk and Smith Counties

and stole some merchandise. They are from Panola County.

We had a report on a stolen car but found out a friend had borrowed it.

Criminal Docket: Monday was the beginning of the Criminal Docket. One case was tried for assault with intent to murder, and was settled with three years probation and part of the Hospital bill to be paid. This is the case where a man was shot through the arm with a shotgun.

We found a Buick that was reported stolen at San Antonio, near the Woods post office. But haven't made any arrests yet.

Peeping Tom: Two women in Carthage reported a Negro boy hiding in the doorway and calling out to them as they were going down the street. He is now in jail, charged with indecent exposure. He proved to be one of the peeping-toms we've had complaints about. Some women won't report them as they don't want to appear in court. But they can get their husbands to appear for them.

Stolen Car: Tuesday we picked up a man on the Bethel highway. He had been intoxicated and was only sleeping it off. The night watchman picked up a prowler that night. We classified the subject and finger printed him. We also had a call that a car had been stolen from a parking lot but it was not long before we found it. By the help of the radio, that man was picked up in Center. It was a young soldier trying to get back to Camp Polk. He stated while in jail, he'd rather go to the pen than to go to Korea.

To State Pen: Tuesday I made a trip to the La. State Pen at Angola. We had a bench warrant for a prisoner there. I spent the night in the pen with Warden Dennis Baizer. He was Chief of Police in Shreveport for a number of years. Deputy John Q. Adams went with me. The Warden took us all over the farm and visited the Hospital where the boys were located who had cut the leaders in their heels. One boy had only 42 days left before his term would have been up. All of the boys were young. The boys were well treated in this

Pen. They have only a few free guards. The other guards are convicts. Negro trustees guard the Negroes and white trustees guard the white convicts. I saw that prisoners were working but no one was there to whip or kick them. The young boy I brought back said they had no cause for acting as they had but trouble had been caused by a few communists out of New Orleans and other large cities. One young man had broken his arm by slamming a door on it just to keep from working.

Five Years: The courts tried the young boy from Angola Friday and gave him five years in the pen. But the sentence was probated. He has served 18 years in the La. State Pen. The man and woman that were brought back from the Texas State Pen were tried and the woman got four years for a total of nine years, and the husband got three years which brings his total up to 13 years. They won't be able to forge any more checks for a while.

Cow Thief: Monday we had a call about a cow thief. I sent Cush Reeves to Nacogdoches to the sale and John Adams to Marshall to check on a Ford Pickup. Someone broke into the school at Timpson and stole 16 typewriters and other equipment.

I visited with Oscar Alexander in Deadwood the other day. He was better than I expected, and is really on the road to recovery. He is one of 'Ol Panola's best, and everyone is anxious to see him back on the streets of Carthage again.

Thursday June 14, 1951

Saturday, I visited DeBerry and found that they were having their homecoming day. So I stayed for lunch, and it was a good one. After leaving there, I had information that there was trouble starting in Waterman's Front so I called and had Mr. Adams and Deputy McNeese to bring in the accused. It was three Negro girls that spend more time walking the roads than trying to do what is right. I had them placed in jail, and called them into my office and gave them a lecture.

Hit and Run: Saturday night we spent a lot of time with the Highway Patrol trying to apprehend a hit and run driver near Tatum. City Police Department had some trouble with a drunk driver Saturday night but he was picked up after running into another car and is now in jail. The third offense of driving drunk charges is a felony.

Lufkin Call: After getting to bed at 2:30 Sunday morning, had a call from Lufkin at 5:00 a.m., to bring the bloodhounds and try to catch a man in the woods. I felt more like sleeping and I felt my Deputies did too. So I went back to bed. But the Sheriff at Lufkin called again, so Mr. Adams and I took 'Ol Nip, Tuck, and Doc to Lufkin. The man being hunted was an alcoholic who had quit but had taken a drink for the first time in six months. This man forced his way into a lady friend's home. A widow who lived with her 12 year old son. They began fussing and the boy picked up a 22 target rifle and asked him to leave. The man took the rifle from the boy and shot his mother. He then tied a handkerchief around her wrist to stop the blood as he had hit an artery. Tied her arms behind her, forced her into the car, drove her 12 miles out and jumped out of the car. The car turned over and the woman died in just a few minutes. The man took off through the woods and when we found him, he was asleep and very bloody. We arrived back in Carthage late but it was a good day's work.

Takes Baby: Monday, a young Negro wife came to tell me her husband had taken the baby and gone to La., and left the child with his sister. I now have the sister headed for Tx.

Pay License: Saw a young man and young lady waiting at the Courthouse to get their marriage license the other day. The lady seemed to be a good girl. I saw her loan her would be husband money to buy the license. What a girl. I had to go to the bank and borrow my $1.75.

Bay Rummer: I got a report on a bay rummer. He had been lying in the ditch quite a while. He really was loaded with bay rum and he didn't have it on his hair for a lotion. He was just another alcoholic who is now in jail sobering up.

Price Construction Company reported some tools stolen. This case should be easy for it is too hot to steal something to work with.

Child Whipped: Tuesday we had a call about a child being whipped unmercifully. After the investigation, we found the mother of the child living with a man and not married. But Judge Sanders told them they must change their way of living, or they would be placed in jail.

Jasper Call: Wednesday we had a call from the Sheriff at Jasper to bring the dogs to help find someone who had burned a barn, some cattle and hogs. But I didn't go. We made a 24 hour run there last year and didn't get our meals or lodging. Poor folks must eat.

We picked up a 17 year old boy for investigation. We found that he lived in Chicago and had left there for Corpus Christi. He hitch hiked to Beebe, Arkansas and had alledgedly took someone's car. The car was abandoned near Linden. The boy caught a ride here. He is now on jail waiting for Arkansas authorities to return him to Court for trial.

Thursday June 21, 1951

Last week saw the ending of the Gibson case. A special venire of 150 men were called, but the jury was picked on Monday. The witnesses were called on Tuesday. By Wednesday the verdict was in and the sentence was for life. I heard my good friend Tolbert Browning say that was long enough. The judge sentenced him but I promised the prisoner I would let him spend Sunday here in order for the people to say good-bye.

Tuesday I left Carthage to attend the Sheriff's association of Tex. at San Antonio. I carried my daughter, Ann, with me and she had a wonderful time but I had lots of work to do. I will say this; Panola County's always well represented. Every Sheriff has heard something about Panola Co. and the work we are doing. Our reports looked good compared to the other 254 counties. Here there are no burglaries,

hi-jacking, or robberies reports. There has not been $100.00 worth of merchandise taken from a store in this County for six years. Count for yourself how many merchants we have. There is not as much a credit to your officers as there is to you good people. Cooperation is what we have here. I am proud of our record and I know that you are too.

Hear Daniels: I heard our good Attorney General of Tx. Price Daniels speak on crime and law for the punishment of such. He warned the officers of Tx, the worst is yet to come. Crime is on the increase. He stressed that we need a crime investigating committee not only in Tx., but in every community. It would be a helpful deal to meet with a group of people and have them make reports to the Sheriff on what is happening. It would save the taxpayers money in mileage alone. If I had a report of every pickup that hauls cattle, just the license number of cars that park near your ranch or farm, or any report of people who violate the law, how easy it would be for me to put my finger on them.

Mrs. Sam (Sis) Mason: While in San Antonio, at the Gunner Coffee shop, I heard a voice that sounded familiar, saying "hello Corbett". It was a good friend, Mrs. Sam (Sis) Mason. She said to tell the people of Panola County hello for her. I have always thought that Sam and Sis were two of the best.

They're Out: While at the Sheriff's meeting, our attorney general instructed un officers in the slot machines and punch boards. They are out. The law is to go into effect soon and as your Sheriff, I want to say this; the parties or any place of business that owns or operates slots and punch boards must do away with them. You can't get by selling or hiding them after the law comes into effect. If they are carried to any state except Nevada, it is a federal offense. You can do this now. Bring them to your Sheriff, or let him know where you have placed them. An officer will direct you to just what disposition can be made of them. No don't think that you can get by. Here's the law enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, Section 1.

BE IT IN ACT BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS.

Section 1: The term "slot machine" was used in the act means:

A. Any so called slot machine or any other machine or mechanical device by what so ever name known. An essential part of which is a drum or reel with ensigna there on, and

B. Which when operated, may deliver as the results of the application of the element of chance, any money or property or any other valuable thing or

C. By the operation of which a person may be entitled to receive as the results of the application of an element of chance or money or property or other valuable thing or

D. Any machine or mechanical device designed and manufactured or adapted to operate by means of the insertion of a coin, token, or other object and designed manufactured or adapted so that when operated, it may deliver as the results of an application of an element of chance, any money or property; or

E. Any subassembly or essential part intended to be used in connection with such a machine or mechanical device.

Section 2: Whoever shall manufacture, own, store, keep, sell, rent, lease, let on shares, lend or give away, transport or possess a slot machine as defined in Section 1, shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in the State Penitentiary, not less than two years or more than four years.

Thursday June 28, 1951

In my time as a peace officer, I've run into some pretty odd characters. I've had it out with some mighty tough battles. Mostly males, and have never lost a decision. But ladies and gentlemen, your Sheriff who was named after prize fighter, Jim Corbitt, came mighty near to losing a decision last Saturday night. And of all things, it was a Negro woman, aged 42, of the Shady Grove community. My opponent weighed in at 212 pounds and 6'1" tall.

I've often heard of fellows catching a tiger by the tail, and not being able to let go. Brother, she had me by the collar and didn't let me go. I felt like I was caged up with a pack of rats.

The incident occured on the square one evening. I was sitting in the car resting, when the Negro woman reached the car and demanded I release her boy who we had. I told her we couldn't release him. She really cut loose with the rage at this. I opened the car to place her in jail. She grabbed me by the collar, and helped me out. She began beating me over the head with her purse. I've always heard of the term "hard cash" and from the way that purse was sounding... and feeling..., when it hit my head, I figured she must have had it loaded, with "hard cash". I later found out it was a Coca Cola concealed in it. My taste for Coca Cola was ruined right then and there.

In round two, the Sheriff got things a little better in hand. The Negro woman... I'll say this for her... was fighting the second round with a disadvantage, because 'long about this time, something snapped and her pantaloons dropped to the ground. She beat a hasty retreat not without said unmentionables.

She was later apprehended. She was handcuffed and ushered to the county cooling off room. It took four strong men to wrestle her up to the room. Lots of folks have ribbed me about my "fight", but we haven't had any ribbing from the four that had to usher her to the cell.

They're amazed that I came out of the battle as well as I did. As a matter of fact, I am too.

After that session with that woman, hereafter, if I had any choice, I'd rather battle it out with hardened male criminals.

Great Losses: Last week was one that saddened many Panola County pioneers at the passing of my good friend Malcolm Shaw, and Jack Titus. Mr. Shaw was my school teacher, a man that everybody loved. Mr. Titus was another wonderful

fellow. I spent many enjoyable hours with him. In his younger days, he was a peace officer, and his words of wisdom and advice have meant much to me.

Our good friend C. B. Duke Sr. has been missing around here since the car accident occured. He's having a tough fight for his life in the Hospital and I know everyone is pulling for him.

Rough Saturday: Saturday was a little rough. There was quite a bit of confusion in the west end of town. We had several calls, and a drunk man and woman wound up in jail. There was another drunk, but the city got him. After it was over, I got the cursing and was asked what right I had to put the man in jail. Don't take the word of a drunk man; help your Sheriff. The jail is the only place for violaters. We were called to North Carthage, Sunday where a Negro boy had drowned. The little fellow was a buddy of my boy and the other kids in North Carthage.

Gibson to Huntsville: Monday was the day to take Gibson to Huntsville. He was very talkative until he saw a roadsign 18 miles to Huntsville. He broke down in a hurry, then.

That evening when I arrived back in Carthage, an informer was waiting to tell me about a bootlegger that was ready for June-teenth. Mr. Adams and I went to the Negro's house, but when I told him I had come for that can of liquor, he didn't seem to know what it was.

I let 'Ol Doc get a good scent of the Negro and then followed the dog one to four miles, where 'Ol Doc went into a tree top. I picked up three gallons of corn liquor there and found two more gallons. When we went back to the Negro's house, he admitted that the dog was mighty smart and wanted to know what kind he was. I told him he was a liquor hound. He spent June-teenth in jail.

Marshall: Wednesday, two officers were here from Marshall, looking for two of our colored people that had a whittling fight at Center Point. They were no trouble to

round up. The wife was in the Hospital, and the husband stated that he was trying to teach her to let that man alone. She will for quite a while.

Three Drunks: Thursday we had a call that three drunks were taking the town, but we finally took them. However, one of them ran against the wall or something and wound up with a sore head. That night we had a call about someone breaking into a tire shop and stealing a tire. With Doc's help, we rounded up the thief and he is in jail.

We rounded up quite a few bootleggers. The Sheriff just wants to warn you. It's summertime and there's very little ice water in the jail.

Thursday July 5, 1951

This week started with a bang. Saturday evening, a request came from an officer to be concealed in a home in the absense of the owner as someone had been entering it. As it was in John Roberts' Precinct, he was the one to do the concealing. He hid in the house. Soon afterwards, someone began unlocking the door. After a short interval of suspense, Mr. Roberts didn't know whether there would be one or twenty to enter. Nor did he know whether they would be ten feet tall, or pigmies. He finally saw who the intruder was. It was a 13 year old Negro boy. A boy 11 years old and an 8 year old boy were outside. The three were brought to my office. We found that a key had been made of haywire which unlocked the door.

I decided it best to keep the boys in jail until Monday, but I almost changed my mind when the mother of the 8 year old boy put me through the hammer mill, or the soda-pop mill. At least that's what she had in her purse.

Sunday Call: Sunday morning, I was called to my office early. There was trouble on the north side of the river. The fellow got away before we arrived. But about noon a Negro boy found me and wanted to help out. He was very bloody. Someone had apparently worked him over with an ice pick and soda-pop bottle. This must have been soda-pop bot-

tle weekend. Mr. McNeese finally apprehended the party. Mr. Hardy Pitts finally convinced the party that ice picks and home brew didn't mix.

Lots of Fun: On Monday, a fellow was having lots of fun. Shreveport called and wanted me to check a name and address. They had a man under influence of alcohol, driving a Carthage car. He is now visiting in the Caddo Parish "Hotel".

Louisiana officers were here abouts this week. Seems some Panola County cattle are straying, with a little outside help. We're going to do our best to prove to somebody that they'd better leave other people's cattle alone.

LaGrone's Store: I finally got a statement from a party that helped carry a safe from Mr. LaGrone's store. The said party was already sentenced to 15 years in jail for a burglary in Dallas County.

Our work is sometimes mighty slow. But by continual plugging, the results show up sooner or later.

Sack of Nickels: We've now got another tough one. Somebody went into a store last week and made off with a bag of nickels, dimes, etc.

This was the first robbery of this nature in Panola County in a long time.

Let me warn you merchants to take your nickels home and don't tempt the party that will steal them.

Got a call from Mt. Enterprise that a fugitive was at large. Got a call that several Negroes were fighting. More home brew acting up. I sent Mr. McNeese after them. He found three. It was easy to see that there had been a fist cuff battle. One party had a left eye closed and mighty swollen. Looked like he'd been worked over with a pine knot. Judge Pitts assessed fines. Two had to partake of our hospitality and remain in our walled in Hotel. Old Panola County doesn't do any credit business. We use the

plan that lots of department stores are using. The lay-away plan. They wait it out in the caboose.

DeBerry Call: Friday, had a call to DeBerry. A big battle was going on, but it was a softball battle, and though serious for the players and a few of the fans, it wasn't anything bad. A few got mad in the heat of the battle and had some hot arguments. But it was mostly just the players among themselves. They wouldn't be much of a team if they didn't argue a little.

Thursday July 12, 1951

This last week was a busy one.

We got a call on Highway 79 East, that a car had run into some lady's car, and for us to come quick. The fellow wound up in jail, and I missed Sunday School next day, getting him out again. I didn't get away Sunday in time to go to the annual Homecoming and singing.

Called Away: I was called away from the Clayton singing that afternoon, but the Highway Patrol had already taken care of matters. Two men were placed in jail for driving while intoxicated. Monday, they got an introduction to our County Judge. They payed a fine.

Sunday night a call to Henderson about a local man, his wife and baby being in a wreck near there. I sent a car to help. The wife was in critical condition, but the husband and child came through pretty well.

Monday Court: Monday our County Court met. Had several cases disposed of. Still lots of work to do.

Received a call from California that one of our violaters was in jail there. He happened to be the party that jumped bond. He was the fellow charged with running over Mr. George Tiller's boy at Latex in 1949.

Wild Car: Had a rush call Monday to catch a wild car on Highway 59 North, but he made his getaway. The party making the complaint was a tourist. He said the occupants

of the wild car had thrown beer cans and bottles at him.

After that failure, a call came from 149. After a chase, the Buick automobile ended up in a ditch. The driver said he saw two roads. He found only one. Three of the occupants were in the cooler... although these days it isn't so cool, as we are not air conditioned yet.

"Nice" Letter: Tuesday a "nice" letter arrived. It wasn't signed, of course, that kind never is. After reading the letter, I think the writer of it wants to send the Negro gal that tried to whip me, a present for the attempt she made on the Sheriff. If you do, come by and leave it with me, that I might check for coke bottles. I will be glad to give you a pass to the jail. She'll be here sometime yet.

Someday I'll print one of these unsigned letters so Panola County people will know some of the type people we have to deal with.

Friday Calls: Friday, I received several calls. The Constable of Beckville had trouble on his hands. While chasing them, he called Deputy Reeves in for help. Two more went to jail. I hate to say it, but we had more in jail this week than any weekend since Christmas. Must be the weather.

We need more cooperation from the people on drunk drivers. Give us a report on violaters and we will gladly do our best to inforce the law. But we need your help.

Thursday July 19, 1951

Last weekend, we got a call to come to Jefferson and bring the dogs. After checking, we found that it was a violater that we wanted in this county. He had been picked up by the Cass County officers and placed in jail, but had made his escape. We took up the trail from an old barn where he had slept. After six hours of running, my dogs got so hot, they could not bark and I couldn't whistle. I saw the escaped man run out of the woods. Someone came through a country road in a pick-up, and the fugitive jumped in and

stole a ride, making his getaway. He had no shirt, no hat, no shoes, and just a pair of his trousers left on. These boys that have been to the Pen, know how to take off.

Few Violaters: Monday, J.P. Pitts was busy. He had a few violaters in jail. I heard one fellow tell him that the beer he drank must have been green, but the fine he paid was very ripe. This buddy left Panola County $72.00 for driving around full of the same green beer. But he said he was swearing off because he had lost his money and didn't like our hotel accomodations. (I'm afraid we're going to have to air condition or else lose our standing in hotel rating.)

We had a call saying that two cows had been stolen. I sent Mr. Reeves, and after a few hours searching, the cattle were found. Which proves that if you don't wait too late, we can help you. But let the trail get cold, and chances of recovering your property is lessened.

We've been having a few calls on hot checks. Our court is over for a few months. But bring your checks in and we will try to help you collect them during no court days. I have always been a good collector. Try the Panola County Hot Check Collecting Service for best results.

One old sore spot of Carthage is gone. The place we have had so much trouble with. I call it Bootlegging and Bay Rum Alley. It was a nest of old tourist cabins, a hide-out for 'leggers. I bought them and had them moved out of town. I'm a little old to be a Boy Scout, but I feel like I did a good deed by taking care of this sore spot. If you can't catch them, destroy their nest is a good policy to follow, I think.

Purse Slinger: I talked to my purse slinging gal today. She is still in jail in best of health, but wanted me to get her out. Said she was missing all the good summer preaching. I told her I would pray for her and do all I could to see that she didn't miss the fall revivals.

To DeBerry: Wednesday there was a rush call to DeBerry. Someone had entered a home and burglarized it. I think we will make a catch. Next call was from Tenaha, to be on the lookout for a tall white man with a handbag. He

had knocked a woman in the head and was headed for Carthage. With the use of the radio, we headed him off and he is now in the Shelby County jail. The lady is doing ok.

The next call was a hurry call too. A woman wanted to know what to do to keep her husband from taking her two children. He had left her and stated that he would die before he let her keep them. I told her to call the Sheriff and the undertaker if he died. I love to help in family affairs. It always is a good way for the Sheriff to get whipped.

Lost Cow: We had a report this week about a Jersy cow that has been out on the range since March, and the man is looking for the owner. This cow had a tag staple in its ear. Come to my office. It might be yours.

Cussing Fight: Last Thursday, we had a call to the west end of the County. I found there had been a cussing fight involving two women and a man. The man was brought into court and paid a fine. He said he lost his temper. Also lost his money... the J.P. helped him count it, so it will be safe now.

We had an F.B.I. agent here this week. You people had better be watching out for shady deals and shady characters. We had a few of the big time crooks trying to get a hold here. Report any scheme that doesn't sound just right. You might buy a white elephant or a sky hook.

Local Call: I had a local call asking the Sheriff to hurry. I arrived at the scene and found a man whipping a woman. He had knocked her down and she was still on the floor where he was stomping her in the face. I caught hold of him and the battle was on. But at the count of 30, he was up. He is now in jail. I called one of the Deputies, and he placed the woman in the lock-up. The man made me a promise that he would see me later. Just another toughy that gets acquainted with Carthage.

Thursday July 26, 1951

Last week we had a call about a man beating his wife, but after putting them in jail and getting finger prints, we found they weren't man and wife. She's a full blood Indian and he's a painter. He's now vacationing in our County jail.

Saturday night at 2:00 we had a call about a car having been shot into. We took the gun-packer to jail, and he's now out on bond. Another caller that night said his car had been hit while parked on the street. We worked that case out but it's best not to leave your car on the street.

The City Officers and Highway Patrol are lots of help to Panola County. I sometimes wonder, how a few years ago, it was possible to hold crime at a minimum. We're glad our Chief of Police is back from vacation. The City Officers placed about six in jail Saturday night and the Highway Patrol apprehended a few.

Call From Bed: I was called out of bed early Sunday morning to pick up a drunk and bring him to jail. I did. Had another call from a man saying he wanted to be placed in jail so he'd be sure to get to work on Monday. It takes all kinds of people to make a world, I guess.

Had a chase with a drunken driver Sunday afternoon, but the Highway Patrol caught up with him. He stated that he was full of the good ol' beer.... just two cans of course. Two calls that afternoon. One about a car parked on the highway. (A violater who is now in jail), and the other to check a car that was found to be out of gas.

Pay Fines: Monday several appeared before the J.P. and paid fines. I had to write out a few bonds. Have a party in jail now that really wants to make bond. He was convicted in the last Grand Jury. We finally found him and placed him in the hold-over for September term of Court.

Wife Gone: Had a call from a woman saying she couldn't live with her husband and what must she do. I told her if my wife didn't come back from her vacation, (she's supposed to be back in two weeks), she could move into my house or

anybody else that could cook.

To Reform School: Our county attorney and my Deputy, Mr. Adams left today to take the little Negro boy we have for theft to reform school. Mr. Reeves had been sent to DeBerry. Looks like we might have a bad man across the river. I am betting Cush is getting the job done.

Another Violater: We picked up a violater near Tatum. He spent a night in jail, paid a nice fine, and took off. A call from Beckville said they didn't want anyone but the Sheriff. After a little work, the trouble was over. We have to settle fence line disputes etc. Found a man cussing the Sheriff about not sending a man to the Pen. Remember, we are only the arresting officers and not the Grand Jury, and Courts. I perform my duty only, and will give what the State of Texas says is my duty as a Sheriff. This Sheriff's job is a constant one, and like the housewife's work, it's never done. Calls come day and night from far and near.

Two Girls: Had a long distance call one night at 2:30 from two girls who explained their boyfriends didn't like their company and had left them stranded. Well the Sheriff played the good Samaritan and got them back home. I want the young folks to call me when they think best. I have never failed to answer their call. Had another call about a girl who had run away. It wasn't long before she was back with her mother.

Desperado #1: Wednesday, all officers were alerted as Desperado #1 was seen in Longview. We all got our big guns out as he had said he wouldn't be taken alive. He was apprehended in Longview Friday night with two of his buddies, and didn't die. A call like that is rough. They know you, but we don't know them.

Heard several good sermons this week. One preacher was pouring it on the man that lives with his bottle. What can be worse than a man that spends his money for whiskey and deserts his family. After paying a fine they'll look you right in the face and say they're quitting. Ol' Satan must be an awful angel. They don't quit. They just get started

again. Eight were put in jail this weekend and all from the results of whiskey. Call 122 and save your boys and girls from drinken drivers or alcoholics.

Thursday August 2, 1951

Around the clock this week, and we were mighty busy. Looks like the little raid we had has got everybody on the run. At least it did us. Saturday night, we worked late in order that the people of Panola County could rest.

The night's activities started with a drunk driver that we apprehended.

Later a citizen came rushing into my office and excitedly stated " Sheriff, he has done thrown one woman out of a car, and if you don't stop him, he'll kill somebody ".

We got to rolling fast with sirens blowing. We ushered the jet in question into the local Bastille.

Cut and Scrape: After this, two Dallas specials were bringing in what we call " East Dallas ". Two Negro women had been whittling each other and doing a good job of it. Another one got cut in the fracas. The first two were sliced up about the head and body. After a trip in the Hospital, they looked like robed Ku Klux Klans. They were tried in County Court, Monday.

Drunk Driver: The drunk driver I'd already mentioned, paid bond and was placed on three years probation.

After the visit at the Hospital with the whittlers, the Dr. called us back to check up on a party that was brought in from South 59. Someone had stabbed him. So far we are unable to pin the deal on anyone. Sometimes you have to let things settle before you can start.

Husband Trouble: After returning to my office, a call came in from a woman crying " my husband is killing me and my baby! ". The baby was one year old. We found the wife and child bruised up considerably. We had them in court

Monday and charges were filed against the husband. He said " Cap, don't do it, because I'm so sore now from where my wife beat me. I couldn't stand up to be filed on. ". So we told him he could sit while we filed. He's sitting in our Panola County "Hotel" awaiting trial.

Justice Court: Several cases in Justice Court. The State Weight man has caught several vehicles overloaded. This is in keeping with the warning I handed out several weeks ago. Get your load limit right and save money.

And this slot machine and punch board matter is coming to a head. In conversation with our D.A., he brought out the fact that the law is now clear on this score, due to ruling, to the last Legislature. In the past, I was a little hazy but not now. So we are asking your cooperation to save embarrassment to all concerened.

Hot Checks: My office would appreciate every bit of cooperation you can give in cases of hot checks. Please do not wait too long in reporting them. Speed in reporting them is very necessary for us to be successful in stopping this business.

Two Violaters: We had two violaters locked up who visited our County some time ago. I also have a party in Dallas County jail. This is the party that was out on 10 year probation and assaulted another party here with a pocket knife, after his probation was granted. Well, he's coming home to visit our nice County "Hotel".

We have room for him now, as our fighting Negro gal completed her 30 days and paid off her $76.00 fine. She will now have time for the summer revivals that she's been missing so much.

Another Call: Got a call Tuesday night from a 15 year old boy who said he wanted to sleep in the jail. Said he couldn't stay at home. I had checked on him before, and found he had a good home, but was afraid of work. I told him I would be up there in a few minutes with a good hickory elm switch and see if he couldn't outrun me home. I further

told him, I was going to warm his britches if I found him in town after dark. Well, he evidently took me at my word, and his mother may have a good boy now.

Missed 'Legger: Another call about a party with a load of whiskey but after we jumped him, he got away in the heavy traffic. I found that he lived in Louisiana. We'll be on the lookout for that gent.

Another call from a citizen who was riding around with his wife when two young ladies took over the middle of the road, and caused him to very nearly wreck his car. He got the car license so it was no trouble finding the prankish young ladies.

They were two mighty pretty 14 year old girls having what they considered innocent fun. I was nice to them. They were out of state violaters. I let them know not to play around with an automobile on the highway.

Thursday August 9, 1951

We have been having numerous complaints in the past few days in regard to hot checks. This is something that is hard to do anything about after the person has left the County with your merchandise or money. Be sure you're right and then take action. First call your Sheriff and his Department. Second, avail yourself of the protection offered by the Sheriff's Department. We will be glad to question anyone that cannot give identification or anyone you might be suspicious of.

Shoot Self: This week, certain parts of the County was in an uproar. To start the weekend off, there was a call to my office by a person saying he had a hunch something was wrong. After talking to him, I told him to check and see of anything was wrong. In a short while, we had a call that a man had shot himself. We rushed the ambulance to the scene and brought the man to the Hospital. But he passed away at 11:30 Saturday night.

Cutting Scrape: The same night, we had a call from

near Beckville. I sent a Deputy to investigate, and in a short time, he called for help. Seems two men agreed to disagree, and one of them ran into a pocket knife and got sliced across the face. It took several stitches to fix him up. The other got hit in the head with a tire tool. It was a case where beer, whiskey, and dice lost again. They were brought before the courts and the charge was left open for investigation of the September term of Court.

Slaps Woman: We had a call that an officer was needed in East Carthage. After investigation, we found a man had slapped a woman on the face and she didn't seem to like it. They were brought to the court house and released for further investigation.

July Record: The month of July ended with quite a record. The J.P. made one of the largest collections in fines of any month in the year. Over $800.00. The record of Mr. Pitts, J.P., shows that he had collected an average of 27.00 a day since the first of Jan. Mileage for my Department was nearly 6,500 miles. Our crime report that we sent to the D.P.S. at Washington D.C. was:

Rape	1
Aggravated Assault	1
Assault with Intent to Murder	1
Theft	1
Disturbing the peace	2
Juvenile Delinquency	2
Drunk and Vagrants	21
Miscellaneous Offenses	33
Driving While Intoxicated	6
Possession and Transporting Liquor	2

A number of calls throughout the County kept the County Court busy. Judge Rowe assessed many fines, totaling 644.75 collected by County Clerk K.C. Kyle for criminal and Court fees.

Burglary: The case of burglary and theft we have been working on with the Monroe La. Sheriff has been solved and the stolen goods that had been sold have been recovered.

One of the men involved is a hometown boy who went wrong. He was given a two year suspended sentence in Nacogdoches County last spring. But the Monroe Sheriff says he will have nine or ten years in Angola. The other man is from Shelby County and both of them have been in and out of our jail several times. They soon will be off to the Angola vacation place with other criminals.

On The Trail: We worked the Longview and Kilgore trail about the middle of the week checking for a new bootlegger, that was trying to locate in our City Limits. I believe he found out he could not make the grade. We did run into an old timer and give him a shake down. We didn't find much spirits on him, but he did create a little business. There was a drunk man and two drinking women enjoying the speed with him in his pick-up. Four on one seat is too many.

Thursday August 16, 1951

Two wolves were found in the East part of the County this week. On investigation, we found a mad timber wolf had been killed and one more found dead. The head of the animal was sent to Austin and a telegram was sent back stating that it had rabies. Mr. Jesse, Game Warden, has stated that he will contact the proper authorities and plan some way to destroy these wild animals, as they are not only dangerous, but destructive to livestock. I had a baby calf killed and feel sure it was done by a wolf.

Drunk Driver: Saturday, the Highway Patrol picked up a drunk driver. He was tried and convicted, given a heavy fine and one year in jail. There was one in and one out on the same charge. Looks like there's always someone ready to take the other one's place.

Dixie Lake: Saturday, got a call to rush tail to Dixie Lake. We got there in time to see two men and a woman wading to the shore. After making a check of the accident, I found that they were all sitting on one side of the boat, watching a container that held ice, etc. When the ice melted and the cold drinks were all gone, the boat became unbalanced, tipped over and they bacame seasick and couldn't stand up, so just had to fall out. They were lucky that the

water was just about four feet deep. Anyway, they had plenty of help getting in their car.

Stolen Batteries: The same day we had a call from the Highway Department saying they had a battery stolen from their equipment. Quite a few batteries are being stolen, so I suggest you keep your car out of the alley, and dark places. A battery is hard to trace. As very few people know their battery number. If you'll take down the number of your battery, tires etc., it will save the tax payers lots of money.

Youth Driving: How about the youngster who is underage driving your auto? Lets be careful every time our cars are being driven by a youngster. We leave ourselves open for liable and someday they may meet a drunk driver or an alcoholic. The Sheriff and other officers have a duty to perform and we don't like to have to stop the kids from driving but you can. We don't care if they get mad at you parents, but want you to help keep them in a good humor with the law.

Billy's Death: The call from Center telling us that the Ex-Sheriff, Tommy Sampler was dead, was quite a shock. He was a wonderful Sheriff and a good friend if mine. Another call that hit hard was one telling of one of our local boys being killed by lightning in Colorado. Billy was a lad we all loved, and was a friend to everybody. He loved his Sheriff and all other law enforcement officers.

Lost Watch: We had a call from the Chief of Police in Elkhart Ind. reporting a watch supposed to be in the possession of a person in Beckville. So it won't be long.

We made a call out on the Beckville road and found two men and two women all drinking. A bunch of children were with them and all were crying. What can the law do when there are children involved? Will someone answer this question please? A good suggestion may help your Sheriff.

Made a call to Court where a young man's probation was revoked and he was given three years in the State Prison. His little 9 year old girl was crying as if her heart would

break, pleading with me not to put her daddy in jail. Well, I didn't. He is out on an appealed bond.

Friday we had a call to come out on Highway 59 to get a man who was either dead or drunk. I sent the Deputies out. He whipped two of them but the third man ran in and he went to jail. He was finger printed and classified and found to be a one time loser in the Arkansas Pen., and a record that is very rough.

Thursday August 23, 1951
No Story.

Thursday August 30, 1951

There was another report of a fox with rabies this weekend. It was funny to hear the Negro that it had chased telling how he killed the fox with a hoe. He said he chopped him in half with the first lick, then the head was sent in and a report came back stating that the fox had rabies.

Saturday night was one to remember. We officers had an all night job. We picked up a man with more whiskey than he was allowed. He was also driving while intoxicated. Despite all this, his aged mother wanted to take him home and care for him. I promised her she could get her boy Sunday morning. So Sunday morning, I called the County Attorney and County Judge. The accused pleaded guilty to drunken driving.

Whipping: The next call was about a man whipping his wife and running the children away from home. He finally ran into the hands of the law, and spent two nights in our cool Hotel. He wanted ice water Sunday but he made out until Monday evening.

The next call was from a woman saying her husband had broken her arm. On investigation, we found the woman had been hit with a club and showed signs she had been well whipped. She was carried to the Hospital for treatment, and is now carrying her arm in a cast. The husband is out on bond.

In the round-up Saturday night, two men and two women spent the night and until Monday in jail to talk to our J.P. They went back to jail saying they didn't know where they would get the money to pay for their fines.

The last call Saturday night was from a man saying someone had busted his head with a six shooter he carried all the time. When the Dr. finished sewing up his head, I sent him home as we didn't have any soft pillows for a sore head.

Rough Sabbath: Sunday morning started out rough. We had a call to a fishing camp on the river. On investigation we found that the owner had been robbed and knocked in the head. He now has two black eyes, and so far we haven't found the guilty party. We did find a bunch that had been drinking that old green beer which sometimes causes black eyes as well as headaches.

Men Fighting: We arrived back from the river in time to see three men fighting. Two of them did a real job in whipping a fellow. As we attempted to stop the fight, they shoved the injured man in the car and took off but wasn't long before our radio hook-up had them surrounded. One man was carried to the Hospital and the others charged will appear in court.

Wife Beats Husband: An unusual call was from a husband wanting his wife placed in jail. Said she was drunk and tried all night to whip him to death. Charges were filed by the husband and she was arrested and put in jail. He was a good husband and in a few days paid her fine. But I heard later she called it quits and headed west.

Constable Gentry: Constable Gentry had had lots of trouble this week in the efforts to keep Beckville clean. He brought two to jail. I saw him carry one man up to the lock-up on his shoulder. If he can drag them, they're jail bound.

'Legger Trouble: We're still having bootlegger trouble. Don't cuss the Sheriff if they haven't all been

caught. If you'll help buy a pint and make a case out of it, it will help everybody. I will refund all money it takes for you to make a buy, and will give the authority to arrest a whiskey violater. Do your part, and I'll back you up.

Reports show we have one of the best counties in Texas. I'll give you the theft and burglary report in a few days. We have just canvassed the county from store to store and you'll be surprised when you find that burglary and theft have been less than $100.00 a year since 1944.

Thursday September 6, 1951

We started out last week with a call to Mansfield, La. We arrived there at 4:30 a.m. and as we got out of the car, a boy rode up on a bicycle, wanting to know the way to Shreveport. We showed him the right highway. That night we had a call to Bethany. A lad had jumped a man with a Bowie knife. When we answered the call, we found that it was the same boy we'd given directions to in Mansfield. He was turned over to the La. authorities.

The following night, we got another call to Bethany. Two boys, ages 9 and 11, bare headed, no shirts, bare footed and dressed in short blue jeans, were armed with a pocket knife and a real 32-20 Smith and Wesson pistol. They had made quite a few of the people of that community let them alone. They had left Shreveport that morning.

Feet Out: Our next call was a report from a car on East 79 Highway. The person calling said the car ahead of him had four legs and feet sticking out of the trunk and he believed they were dead. After a long drive, we caught the car near Greenwood. But found it was only two people asleep in the back of the car. The cushion had been taken out and a bed made in the floor but the driver didn't know their feet were almost dragging the pavement.

Peeping Toms: We officers have been working in the late hours checking for peeping-toms. We had a call from a

man saying someone was looking in his window, and he had taken a couple of shots at him. We found a number of footprints at the window. With the help of Ol' Jack, the bloodhound, we got a lead and found a hat that the peeping-tom had lost. The following day we apprehended the suspect, and he admitted he was there, but said some white boys had run him in the white folks' yard at 12:30. He was a 16 year old colored boy. At the hearing, the County believed his story, so he was turned loose.

If anyone enters your yard or room, I believe you have a right to shoot. The peeping-tom that was killed in Shreveport a few days ago was run out of Carthage in 1949.

We had a call to go to Henderson with the dogs as they are having peepers too. But we were on the run here with them.

Court Trials: County Court was in session this week, and the jury was rough. One case, of driving while drunk, got a $200.00 fine and costs. Another case got $100.00 and costs.

Stolen Car: Wednesday a call came from a man saying his car was being driven away and to hurry. That was around 5:00. We got the roads blocked and at 9:15 we had recovered the car and picked up the three juveniles. Their ages were 11, 13, and 14, and were Panola County lads. Their case has been set for a later date. Your local officers are willing to help boys all they can, and some will respond to the good talk. One of these boys told me nobody cared anything for him. So I could just put him in jail if I liked. I had to put him in the hold-over as it was the second car that he had stolen this year. Don't leave your keys in the switch as little boys like to drive, and your car might be the next one.

Thursday September 13, 1951

This weekend was very quiet. A few were given the once over, but the man we checked for bootlegging and the one we have had a number of reports on were caught, and a case

filed. We had spent lots of time lately, slow trailing the subject. I am sure the people on North 59 Highway wondered why we stayed near one place for so long. The man we caught said we had ruined him. I hope our County Judge can let him know that whiskey traffic doesn't pay.

These old timers are hard to catch as they know the law so they carry two pints and sell it, then they go get two more. The law says they must have in their possession more than a quart to make a case. A constable made a raid on two places and found them within the law. The City Police are trying to help with the apprehension of liquor violaters.

Deputies on Trip: Saturday, I sent two of the Deputies to the prison farm in Huntsville to talk to a prisoner. We got some very important information which helped us to clear up some jobs of burglary in the County. We keep plugging when someone violates the law here. Some of these crooks are hard to get inside of, but you will hear more about it in the near future. I now have one subject in jail and the warrants for two more that were caught stealing. I believe these cases are the only ones of burglary that have been committed since I have been Sheriff that were unsolved. The one who broke open a money safe at G&H grocery store in 1947 was indicted in this last Grand Jury session.

Drunk Driving: Saturday the Highway Patrol picked up a drunk driver. Sunday I was busy talking to a prisoner from the State Prison that took time to go to Gary and hear the good singing there. Monday, Labor Day, was a quiet day.

Grand Jury: The Grand Jury was called together Tuesday. So we were busy summoning witnesses. We had about six indictments. We had twelve of the best men in the County as jurors, and I feel sure every indictment will stand up in Court.

Juvenile Help: I had to call on my good friend, Joe Gray this week for help, and he is a good one. We had lots of good folks who want to help in law enforcement. I noticed in the Watchman that we are going to get some help with the juveniles. Many thanks to Bro. Alford and others

that are interested in the ones of tomorrow. I also appreciate the good Christian people that visit the jail each Sunday and talk to the prisoners. I find that it makes the ones in jail start thinking.

Criticism: I suggest that these who are criticizing the Sheriff read Proverbs 6:16-19 and Proverbs 10:18. I have been criticized about punch boards, marble tables, etc. but the new law says they're out.

Home Brew: Home brew making is rough in some parts of the County, but we are closing in on them. Seems some folks were making their own brew and drinking it too.

Thursday September 20, 1951

This week my Deputies and I spent the week in trying to hem up a whiskey maker. We lost about two nights of sleep doing so. The second night, I got two men to go to the suspect's house and try to make a buy. He said it would take him some time to go and get it. He went back into the house and came out to the men with a shot gun in his hand. The men asked him what he was going to do with that gun. He replied that it might come in handy. It wasn't any trouble for me to hide and not be seen. I was in the middle with a big Deputy on each side. We did have a fuss about getting behind a tree.

I stayed there waiting for the return of the two men that were going to make a buy. In the late hours, we left. I found out the man with the gun let the undercover men see the sunrise. They said they prayed for each other. Now you folks can see some of our work isn't fun.

Another Call: Another call to the east end of the County. A voice said "come on down here quick. A man drove up to my filling station, hit me in the jaw and shot all of us boys".

After investigation, I found the boys there were drinking and tried to whip the party in question. But they lost the first round when that pistol began barking. After a few

days of work, the subject paid a fine, and lost his pistol, and everybody was satisfied, except the boys that were shot at. Also there was a little question of who would put back the plate glass window that was shot out.

Travis Gentry, Constable at Beckville, rolled up part of Tatum and placed a drunk in jail. Later we got a call to the jail and the man said someone had robbed him. He said he had his money in the cuff of his trousers and a jail mate had relieved him of it. After a little work, we got his money back for him, but it wasn't enough to pay his fine. But with a few days of rest in our nice County Hotel, he paid out. You see, After a conviction, the one in jail gets $3.00 credit on his fine per day. So if you run out of a job, the County will give you a bed and two meals and credit you with $3.00 for each day in the County Hotel. Another nice thing is nobody can get in to harm you and you can't fall out of your room and get hurt and there is a fellow on duty with a pistol to protect you. So the next time you violate the law, it's yours for free.

Whiskey Stills: Another call about a whiskey still. A voice said "wish you could check and see if something can't be done". But these two stills mentioned were located in Harrison County. So I notified their Sheriff. I understand that they have not been captured.

It doesn't take Ol' Doc the bloodhound long to lead the trail to the mash barrel. I'm afraid he's going to take to heavy drinking if he's not careful.

Drunk Driving: Two colored boys entered a plea of guilty to drunk driving. They paid their fine but fussed about the cost. Said they should be given that for their headache. They were caught on the Oak Tree Trail at 4:20 a.m. They wanted to know if I ever went to bed, because they said I seemed to pop up every time they violate the law.

Woods Post Office: Got a call to Woods Post Office again. A voice yelled "come quick! A home brew maker is about to beat his wife up!". Well I found he'd bitten her

several times alright. He's to be with us for 25 days. Reports so far of offenses

Assault With Intent to Murder	1
Forgery	1
Aggravated Assault	2
Felony, Theft	1
Auto Theft	1
Check Swindling	4
Juvenile Delinquents	8
Drunks and Vagrants	16
Miscellaneous Offenses	35

Thursday September 27, 1951

Seems like this has been hot check week. On September 20, 1947, a man gave a check for $500.00 to citizen of this County for an automobile. While the man was trying to cash the check, the buyer took the car and left. When the Grand Jury of January 1948 met, he was indicted. We have been on the search for the violater ever since. We had him locked up in Florida, so four years from the date of the violation, he sent the Courts $500.00 to take care of the check. He is still in the Florida jail.

Some two years ago, we had another hot check artist that hit our local stores for several dollars. He is now in and out of the County jail and the stores are getting their money back. It takes sometime to catch up with some of these fellcws but I never take them off the wanted list.

Burglary Jobs: When we found the guilty party that broke into Clarence LaGrone's store a couple of months ago, a confession obtained, helped clean up some burglary jobs that took place in Panola County a few years ago.

A citizen of Panola County got money back. $65.00 that he had given up for lost. A colored boy had killed the man's hog. He was tried for hog theft, got 10 years probation and had to pay for all costs. The man was glad to get the money as he said he hadn't had much of a crop.

We had a call to pick up a colored boy that was sent from Panola County to the reform school near Ft. Worth, some time ago, after we had caught him burglarizing a tire shop. We will have to take him back as soon as the papers are prepared. He is now in Panola County jail.

Family Trouble: Had another call about a man whipping his wife. A complaint was filed and the husband brought into court. He agreed to do better and they went away peacefully, but the next morning we had another call from the same place. After meeting in court, they decided to call it quits. The husband took the baby and the wife went out to look to work.

No Honkytonks: Had a call to a place on East 79. Looked like there was a honkytonk in the making. But I gave them a Panola County Honkytonk remedy. It got them all on the run. There will not be a honkytonk in Panola as long as I am your Chief law enforcement officer.

We had quite a round-up in East Carthage. Chief Prentice and the Sheriff's Department lost several nights sleep. One woman had the other woman's husband in bed with her. They wanted to come to Court one at a time. They did, but left together.

Oak Tree Buddy: One of the Oak Tree buddies got in jail in Longview and called to see if I would stand good for his fine of $15.59. The fine was put up and he promised he would never get drunk again. That's the third time I've put up for him.

I was approached by a man last week wanting to have a vote taken to get beer in this County. My answer is "Hell no!". My jail report will show that the biggest percent of inmates are put in jail from the effects of beer and whiskey. No beer joints and saloons for our County.

Thursday October 4, 1951

It has been a pleasure this week for the Sheriff's Department to know there had been such few violations. But

it is time for a rest. We passed this week without an out-of-the-county call. Which is a record. We do lots of work for other counties. I believe the good people that visit the jail each Sunday and others of Carthage have begun to work with law enforcement officers and are helping a great deal.

The bootleg racket is on the run. I received information that some of the whiskey peddlers are going out for other jobs. Drunk driving is below par. Our Highway Patrol is doing a wonderful job, protecting our highways against drunk drivers, speeding, etc.

District Court: District Court for criminal cases met last week. I think all the people of the eastern part of the County were there to hear a case being tried. It was carried over until the January term, 1952.

Our safe burglary case was set for the next Court. The witness we had here from the prison in Huntsville was returned.

Stolen Money: We had a call about $12.00 being missing from a home. It wasn't long before we had the person in custody. I would like to make this suggestion. Before you hire a maid for your house, if you don't know her, check with your Sheriff, and I will be glad to find out about her.

Hot Checks: We had a call from Ft. Worth about a man passing two hot checks in this county. The Sheriff there wanted to know if he could pay off. It has been over 12 months since the checks were cashed.

A record for Panola County has been set. This is the first time that I can recall since I've been Sheriff, that there was not a person in jail. For 24 hours it was empty. However, I look for a storm after several quiet days. The people are busy this time of year getting ready for the winter months, Santa Claus and hunting season.

The Game Warden has been on the run. We have some few in Panola County that don't like for a squirrel to jump out

of a tree, or for a buck deer to run over them. Mr. Jesse, the Game Warden has been in Justice Court with a few violaters, but after the 15th, squirrel season will open and a little later, deer season. Then a man can take a gun into the woods fro protection. A few years ago, I had a buck to run over me one night and ruin the big flash light I had tied to my hat.

A little colored boy that ran away from the home where he was staying, was returned, but he told the officer the next time we would find him in California. Anyway, he'll be out of Panola County.

Thursday October 11, 1951

We have gone into October with an empty jail. However, we got a lot of calls that are just calls. One such was a call at 2:30 a.m. about a drunk driver that they were holding. Two of the Deputies went there and found that instead of a drunk driver, there was a man who had been drunk all day, and couldn't go to sleep because someone had hid his whiskey. His story was that he wanted the Deputies to catch a car that had just driven away. He thought the driver was drunk because he had stolen his whiskey.

We were busy during the month of September in Court, and traveled lots of miles after witnesses, etc. District Court is about over and no one was sent to the Pen., but a few did get probations. Some were fined several dollars. There were about a dozen on divorce list.

Monthly Report: My monthly report to the Dpt. of Public Safety is:

Hot Checks	4
Drunken Driving	5
Transporting and Possession of Liquor	5
Removing Mortgaged Property	1
Disturbing Peace	3
Simple Assault	3
Felony Theft	1
Drunks	12

Our mileage for September is better than the 10,000 mark. If you figure that at $.07 a mile you can save some of the expense of law enforcement in Panola County. It is cheap as long as your property is protected and murder, rape theft and burglary are held down.

Pulpwood Case: I have made a lot of miles this weekend on a pulpwood case. A widow's property was being run over, but she finally got her money and no charges were filed. This was a case of not knowing where the land line was.

We had a report about a stolen car in the west part of the County. I contacted the Sheriff of Rusk County and with his help, we walked out a 400 acre pasture, but had no luck. Seems that some of the County line have had a few cows leaving and somebody is leading them. I'll be glad when we can find the guilty party.

Peeping Tom: We had a call about a peeping-tom in the north-west part of Carthage at 2.20 a.m. Whoever he is, he's a sly one. When you hear a noise, don't turn on the light. Be still and call the officer. If you're unable to locate me or the City Police, call Reed Forsyth station, as that is the hangout for the two night watchmen.

Road Block: We're expecting to have a road block here in Carthage soon for checking drivers' licenses, etc. Be prepared and lets try to make Panola County 100%. I will help the Highway Patrol. Excuses won't do any good. If the old jalopy needs repairs, spend the fine money on it.

The Constable at Beckville has been having trouble with a family, but they were in Court this week and the family is united again, thanks to the efforts of a good Constable.

Game Warden Jesse, has apprehended some squirrel hunters. They were mixed up on the law, but the J.P. convinced them that Panola County season did not open until October 15th.

Thursday October 18, 1951

Editors Note: With crime in the County apparently taking a holiday, (the jail, we hear, is empty) and with the frost on the pumpkin leaves turning to beautiful hues, and a crispness in the weather evident, Sheriff Akins this week took pen in hand to wax eloquent on the season of the year and to do a little reminiscing. The Sheriff almost got poetical as is evident here.

A word from your Sheriff: It is the fall of the year, persimmons are getting ripe and it is hunting time for Panola County Sheriff in the heart of East Texas.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

When you were a boy so long ago that any old dog that trees opossums was a welcome companion. Even Ol' Shep was in the crowd when the boys met by the old swimming hole early in the evening for an all night hunt. How rare it actually was when you actually treed a ring-tail, as well as what a thrill it was. And those long eared, loud voiced hounds that were not registered Hounds

When you slept by old feather beds that were thrown over the old corn husk or straw mattress (then you are well over 21). For today we sleep on Foam Rubber instead of corn husks and straw. When sugar was 20 pounds for a dollar, and we rode the old mule or plow horse to town with the sack of white corn over his withers to have ground at the old mill into corn meal. When the cane pole was a luxury at the fishing hole, and the old red angle worms then, are now the most sure fish bait. When we hunted the opossum and coon in the months that had an "R". There was no season or season limit, but the no conservation Game Warden watched out for the city slicker that shot wild turkey out of season, maybe.

When the most popular reading was the "Slow Train Through Arkansas", telling of the native that went out hoeing cotton. He was sitting on a fence when he saw two wild cats start a fight. They commenced to climb each other, and

to claw till they had clawed out of sight. Then hair fell for three days afterward.

When you thought the old plow team was going to throw a fit when the first automobile came. Chucking down the country road, and you were all excited, trying to watch the team cut up and see the car at the same time. But when it had gone by, the dust was so thick that you had failed to really get a good look at it.

When it was popular to go to Church and school on shanks horses, and a two or three mile walk was too short for courtin' a gal. You had to take the longer road around. If you had to go to the County Seat, 20 miles away, you got all ready at 4:00 in the morning, and the old wagon rattled along til noon, before you came over the hill where you could see the Courthouse. And after a hurried shopping among the stores, we could get home long after dark to hear the cows bawling to be milked.

When you heard the first phonograph play Rings on My Fingers, Bells on My Toes. When you peeked back at the old movie house and watched the operator crank out while the silent movie films with Bill Hart and others were your favorite. Those good ol' days. No wars, few taxes, no place to go unless you walked, and I wonder if our present generation could take it after all the hurry and bustle of this present generation.

Law Enforcement is a memory of the past when cowboy pistol toters hung the cow thief. But in this day and time, we have airplanes, automobiles, radios, machine guns, etc., and law is still violated...but our jail is still empty... right now, that is.

Thursday October 25, 1951

We have been busy patroling the County trying to keep down violations, checking with people and doing all we can to make Panola County safe. We found there was to be a spot set aside for a honkytonk, but it is all over now.

We located two whiskey stills in Harrison County and

gave the information to the Liquor Control Board. I'm sure they contacted our neighboring Sheriff, Earl Elliot. These violaters were near Bethany La.

Several Wounds: We had a call from the Hospital last weekend. When we arrived, we found a man on the operating table having several wounds sewed up. He and his partner were found to be intoxicated. They were arrested and placed in jail. Paid their fine and took off. Another case of dope and whiskey ruining a home.

More Beer: We had a call to the south end of town about a young man who was drinking too much beer. I could not reason with him, and he got me told. He wanted to go home, so I figured that was better than sending him to jail.

Carnival Losses: We had several calls to the carnival grounds while they were in town. Some named it the spot with 40 thieves. One man past 75 years old, lost over $200.00. A Negro lost $300.00 and one man had $170.00 snatched out of his hand. All of the money was recovered by the officers, but there were probably more who wouldn't squawk.

A call from the south-west part of town asked us to do something about the Bay Rumheads. We found one man almost dead from drinking, but the others rushed out of town.

Peeping Tom: We're still getting peeping-tom calls. Most of them are from the north-west part of town. He must be pretty smart, but we hope to catch him soon.

Please do something! My life is being threatened. I never got so tired of looking at a pistol in my life!, was a plea made over the phone. We got the party and he paid his fine. We have had two more calls of the same nature. On one call, thought the woman and I both would get killed before we got away.

Wild Man: A wild man reported to be in the river bottom. The caller said he was eating huckleberries like a goat eating leaves. Will report more next week. Ol' Doc will tell me the way he has gone.

Thursday November 1, 1951

Saturday started out a little rough, but with a few hours of work, we got ready for the night. We can almost tell when the Boogie man is going to walk.

First one Saturday night was a drunk in the ditch. We made the call and found a man and woman enjoying the old alcohol spirits. They were picked up and placed in jail. Next report came from South 59. A man was going from ditch to ditch. He was apprehended and spent the rest of the week end in the Bar Hotel. Several more calls came through the night, but we took off for home, about 3:00 a.m. Sunday. In the meantime, the Center Sheriff was calling for the blood-hounds, but I didn't get to go, as I was short one Deputy, as Mr. Reeves was in the Hospital.

Peeping Tom: Saturday night, brought another peeping-tom report. We got the hounds together, but it was too dry to trail. At the same time there was a tale about a wreck near Latex. We found a car torn up and a man seriously injured. When we got back to the office, there was a call waiting from a person who had missed the bus, and wanted us to come and get them. We did. Another call then came through from Little Rock, wanting us to locate the brother of a man.

Lost Husbands: Three women came by Saturday night from Michigan wanting us to locate their husbands. The three husbands were in one car and the three wives in another. But they had gotten separated. We put out an alarm over the air and located the husbands in Henderson. They met their wives there. The husbands came by and told us they appreciated the nice work we had done in locating them. It was hard to tell who was the happiest. The wives or the husbands, and I believe the wives, as they said their husbands had all the money. Your Sheriff suggests to all husbands not to be so close...let the wives have part of the pocket book.

Clean-up Day: Monday is always clean-up day. The violaters in jail either made bond, or paid a fine. One

party left a cash bond. Three $100.00 bills. He said he had lived for 80 years without being arrested. He had had too much of that old liquor and the flivver he was driving was drunk too. He said he couldn't keep it on the road. He begged me not to tell his wife what had happened.

Tuesday Sales Day: We checked the pens looking for some cattle that is reported stolen. Seems that a lot of cows are being stolen in other counties.

Trip to Rusk: We had a trip to Rusk to take a young lady who was sent to the Hospital there for treatment as a dope addict. It probably would suprise you to know how many dope and whiskey addicts there are in Panold County.

Tuesday night we went on a call to the Magnolia addition for a prowler. We covered the north-west part of Carthage, and finally put two tramps down the road. Please report any tramps you might see, to the Sheriff's Department. We want to keep the town and county free of loafers.

Total Loss: We went to a fire in the Westmoreland addition where the Robinson home was burned. The family lost everything they owned, and if anyone wants to help, call the Sheriff's office.

Wednesday, we got a report on a cow that was stolen a year ago. We know the person that put the rope on the cow. But our job is to find where the cow followed that person.

Thursday, there was a call from the Shreveport Sheriff, wanting me to look at two fellows that he had in jail in possession of stolen property. One said he had ran away from school here two years ago, and mentioned a familiar name, but we found out it was just another story. He was from Naples, but had lived here at one time.

Wild Man: I promised to tell more about the wild man. We found him, and it is a pitiful story. He is paralyzed in the left leg and arm, and said he didn't want to be out where the public could see him. We found the shack where he is living. He has been living mostly on game and fish,

and begged us to let him live the life he wanted to live. And he was left in the house that he had prepared for himself.

Thursday November 8, 1951

The caravan that was formed for the New London- Carthage football game was a success in that there was no mishaps. I was leading the caravan. Deputy Adams was bringing up the rear. Deputy Reeves was in the middle. It was better than three miles from my car to Mr. Adams.

When I returned, there was a call waiting from some people in the Overton jail wanting me to help them get released. The Sheriff released them Saturday evening after they had paid their Hotel bill.

More Calls: Saturday morning at 4:00 a.m., there was a call wanting me to come over and stop some cussing and fussing. I found the bad man, and to jail he went. Saturday evening, he met Judge Hardy Pitts for a nice fine. The next call was from Elysian Fields, wanting me to pick up a criminal who was wanted at several places. I sent Mr. Reeves, but the man had made his get-away.

Lost Clothes: Saturday a citizen of Carthage had packed his clothes to leave. He parked his car and when he returned, his 18 shirts, 7 suits of khakies, 12 pair of underwear, and a khaki jacket wearing the laundry mark, L.M.H. were missing. If anyone should see such a marking, let us know se we can get the man out of the barrell.

Deputy Reeves and Constable Travis Gentry made a trip to Henderson to pick up a subject Saturday.

Burglary: Saturday, a burglary took place at the colored school. The City Police and Mr. Reeves picked up the guilty parties. A bunch of school boys. They wanted some candy and soda-pop. They are all juveniles and will be turned over to the Courts.

Sunday was not a day to rest for us. There was a bad

car wreck on East 79 with several persons injured. Another wreck near Beckville, but no serious injuries. There was a call on West 79 from a man who had moved his house to another location and left his waterpump and tank. We returned and someone had beat him to them. I think we will pick up the guilty party.

Justice Court: Monday was Justice Court day. Judge Pitts got a few fines together and a few cases are still to be heard. I made a trip for our soldier boy Monday. He came to see his wife but the Mother-in-law refused to let him talk to her. He hired a lawyer and sued her for several thousand dollars. The papers were served and on docket this date.

The only call Tuesday night was to Highway 59 North where a man had turned over loaded with race horses. The horses were pinned in the van and when the gas tank exploded the five horses were burned.

Beverage Load: Wednesday, we made a trip to Longview with a load of beer, wine, etc. to be turned over to the Liquor Board. We have to turn in the bootlegged beverage, and make a report as to what disposition was made of it. Our load was not as much as it had been in the past.

Halloween night was a little rough. We made a number of calls and the City officers were also kept on the run. Some few boys were shooting out lights and some were shooting out windows with pea shooters.

Calf Stolen: A call from the north-east part of the County stated that a calf had been stolen from a cow pen. On investigating, we found that two men were seen chasing a calf near Bethany. It was the same calf, and my Deputies and the La. law gave them a chase, but they got through. I had information they were headed for Houston. I notified the officers there and in less than an hour, they were in jail. Mr. Reeves and Constable Gentry brought them back. They are now in the Panola County Bar Hotel, waiting for action of the Grand Jury in January. The calf is now back in the cow pen.

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